FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-083
Friday
29 April 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-083 CONTENTS *29 April 1994*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mitterrand Favors European Stability Pact *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Russian, EC Experts Unable To Agree on Uranium Exports *[SEGODNYA 29 Apr]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Filatov Addresses Conference on CIS Economic Space *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
    Conference Concludes *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 28 Apr]* 2
Shumeyko Favors Council of CIS News Agency Heads *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Apr 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Shokhin Views Talks With EU, IMF, G-7 *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
    More on Shokhin's Views *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 4
    Further Shokhin Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Grachev, ROK Defense Minister Discuss Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
    Discussion Continues *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Shumeyko to Head Peace Initiative in Nagorno-Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Interview With Black Sea Fleet Commander *[INTERFAX]* 7
Missile Retargeting Not To Impair Combat Readiness *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Kozyrev Sees 'Reasonable Alternative to War' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Kozyrev Returns to Moscow, Reports on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Kozyrev Calls for Military Cooperation With ROK *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Syrian Military Deal Covers Only Defensive Systems *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 12
Aide Doubts Syrian Debt To Be Written Off *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 13
Russian, Azeri Parliaments Sign Cooperation Deal *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Russia Presses for Ratification of Baykonur Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 13
Polish Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow *[Warsaw Radio]* 13
Tajik Foreign Ministry Accused of Misstatements *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 28 Apr]* 14
Irish Foreign Minister Outlines Talks Agenda *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Karasin on Postponement of Finnish Minister's Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Country Urged To Avoid Anti-, Pro-Americanism *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 24 Apr-1 May]* 15
U.S. Adherence to 'Ideologized Precepts' Criticized *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 16
Head of Duma Delegation on Visit to Former Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Greenpeace Cited on Nuclear Fuel Deal With Finland *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 27 Apr]* 17
Karasin Censures Attempts To Hinder Change in RSA *[INTERFAX]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

'Text' of Treaty on Social Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
    Kostikov Comments *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 29 Apr]* 22
    Rybkin Address at Signing Ceremony *[Moscow TV]* 22
    Leaders Comment on Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
    Three Fail To Sign Treaty *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 23
    Deputies Comment on Signing *[INTERFAX]* 23
    Shakhray Says 'No Alternative' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 24
    Accord Treaty Seen as 'Trap' *[PRAVDA 28 Apr]* 25
Federation Council Supports Yeltsin Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Yeltsin Rules Out Fresh Coup Attempt *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Speech to FIS Leadership, Staffers *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 26

Yeltsin Said 'Satisfied' With Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Counterintelligence Public Relations Center To Move *[KURANTY 28 Apr]* 29
Possible Scenarios of Anti-Corruption Drive Explored *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 29
Militia Chief Reports Holiday Public Order Measures *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Additional Troops for Moscow May Day Viewed *[PRAVDA 28 Apr]* 30
Rybkin Urges Yeltsin To Raise Defense Budget Issue *[INTERFAX]* 31
Cossacks Want 'State Status,' Special Government Committee *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 Apr]* 31
State Environmental Protection Efforts Eyed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Apr]* 32
Text of Yeltsin Edict on N. Ossetia Emergency Zone *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 34
Commission Preparing Report on Human Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Poll Shows Decline in Support for Most Parties *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 34
Regions' Unregulated International Ties Questioned *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 Apr]* 35
Spokesman on Kazakh Arrest of Russian Community Leader *[INTERFAX]* 35

Media Issues

IZVESTIYA Announces Subscription Rates *[IZVESTIYA 27 Apr]* 36
IZVESTIYA Announces New 'Expert Assessment' Section *[27 Apr]* 36

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Seeks Funds Advance to Textile Industry *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 36
Further Oil Company Drops Prices for Farmers *[IZVESTIYA]* 37
Government Adjourns Debate on Economy *[SEGODNYA 29 Apr]* 37
Yeltsin's Economic Advisers Profiled *[IZVESTIYA 27 Apr]* 38

Military & Space Issues

Cosmos-2280 Satellite Launched from Baykonur *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
TASS Provides Parameters for Cosmos-2280 39
TASS Reports on Mir Space Station Mission 39
Yeltsin Orders Continued Study on Army Bases Abroad *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 39
General Dispels Doubts Over Control of Nuclear Missiles *[SEGODNYA 29 Apr]* 39
Status of Spring Military Draft Profiled *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Apr]* 40
Only 16 From Every 100 Being Drafted Into Army *[INTERFAX]* 41

Federal Assembly

'Undelivered Speech' Urges Accord Rejection *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 28 Apr]* 41
Deputy Lays Down Terms for Avoiding 'Civil War' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 28 Apr]* 42
New Faction Registered at State Duma *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Budget Committee Suggests Reducing Foreign Loans *[INTERFAX]* 43

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Orenburg, Gives Interview *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Moscow Mayor Apprehensive on May Day Holiday *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Moscow Mayor Seeks Right To Retain Some Tax Revenue *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 44
Capital Government Oversees 'Moscow-City' Project *[IZVESTIYA 26 Apr]* 44
Tatarstan Opposition Sets Up Anti-Bureaucratic Front *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 28 Apr]* 45
New Border Crossing With PRC To Open in Maritime Kray *[Vladivostok Radio]* 45
Attempt To Restore Soviet Rule Fails in Mordovia *[SEGODNYA 28 Apr]* 45

UKRAINE

International Affairs

G-7 Asked For $20 Billion in Economic Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Defense Cooperation Treaty With Estonia Signed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Apr]* 47
Envoy Views Relations With Austria, Russia *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 23 Apr]* 47

National Affairs

IAEA Stand on Chernobyl Criticized *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Apr]* 49
Edict on Elimination of Chernobyl Consequences *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 23 Apr]* 50
Kravchuk's Stance on Presidential Elections *[Kiev International]* 51
Deputies Appeal to Suspend Presidential Elections *[Kiev International]* 52
Leaders Discuss Plans, Presidential Elections *[VECHIRNIY KYYIV 23 Apr]* 52
Crimean Vice Premier on Economic Situation *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Apr]* 53
Crimean Deputy Premier on Economic, Political Issues *[UNIAN]* 54
Crimea's New Finance Minister Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 28 Apr]* 54

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Amends Tax Laws in Line With Monetary Merger *[RID]* 57
Supreme Soviet Elects Constitutional Court *[Minsk Radio]* 57
Publishing of Lead Papers To Be Halted 29 Apr *[BELAPAN]* 57

Moldova

Snegur, Dniester's Smirnov Sign Joint Communique *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Delegation Fails To Leave for NATO Meeting *[BASAPRESS]* 58
Ambassador to Moscow Resigns *[BASAPRESS]* 58
New Deputy Ministers, Department Heads Appointed *[BASAPRESS]* 58
Sudanese Ambassador Presents Credentials *[BASAPRESS]* 59

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

President Praises Border Accord With China *[INTERFAX]* 60
All Nuclear Weaponry in Kazakhstan Belongs to Russia *[Moscow TV]* 60
Defense Minister Advocates CIS Military Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Missiles Becoming Instruments of 'Political Blackmail' *[St Petersburg TV]* 60

Tajikistan

Parliament Session Confirms New Officials *[Dushanbe Radio]* 61
Bank Chairman on Remaining in Ruble Zone *[Dushanbe Radio]* 61
Deputy Chief of Militia Department, Family Shot Dead *[INTERFAX]* 62

Turkmenistan

Mitterrand, Niyazov Discuss Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
French Official Comments on Bosnian Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
French President Ends Visit; Results Reviewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
Niyazov Answers Question on Agricultural Reform *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 29 Apr]* 63

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Receives CSCE's Mathias Mosberg *[Yerevan Radio]* 64
Karabakh Officials Claim Cease-Fire Not Observed *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Border Villages Fired on From Azerbaijan *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Karabakh's Kocharyan Interviewed on Settlement *[SNARK]* 64

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Cease-Fire Planned for 28-29 Apr *[INTERFAX]* 64

- President Aliyev Speaks After Receiving CSCE Delegation *[TURAN]* ... 65
- CSCE Delegation Comes Under Armenian Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 65
- Shelling Continues, Large Scale Fighting Over *[INTERFAX]* ... 65
- National Assembly Attacks Russian Karabakh Peace Plan *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 27 Apr]* ... 66
- Gazanov Comments on New U.S. Ambassador *[AZERBAYDZHAN 23 Apr]* ... 66
- Foreign Companies To Participate in Developing Caspian Oil *[TURAN]* ... 67
- Drop in Manat's ROE Prompts 'Explosion of Prices' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* ... 67

Georgia

- Shevardnadze Decree on Care for Withdrawn Troops *[Tbilisi Radio]* ... 67
- New First Deputy Defense Minister Appointed *[INTERFAX]* ... 68

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

- Defense Forces Chief Visits Brussels *[ETA]* ... 69
  - Says Peacekeepers Ready by Fall *[ETA]* ... 69
  - Partnership Participation Plan Ready in May *[BNS]* ... 69
- Higher Import Tariffs in Russia 1 Jul *[BNS]* ... 70
  - Higher Tariffs Economically Motivated *[BNS]* ... 70
- Prime Minister Chairs 2-Day Coalition Meeting *[ETA]* ... 70
- Kurds Crossing Illegally From Russia *[BNS]* ... 70

Latvia

- 'No Obstacles' to Russian Army Agreement *[Riga Radio]* ... 71
- U.S. Group on Russian Officer Housing Program *[BNS]* ... 71
- Experts Continue Russian Summit Date Coordination *[BNS]* ... 71
  - Summit Negotiations Proceed *[Riga Radio]* ... 72
- Fatherland, Freedom Chairman on Citizenship Law *[STRAZH BALTIKI 20 Apr]* ... 72

Lithuania

- Foreign Minister Signs Treaty in Washington *[BNS]* ... 73
- Polish President Favors Economic Roundtable *[Vilnius Radio]* ... 73
- Controversy Flares Over Treaty With Poland *[BNS]* ... 74

Mitterrand Favors European Stability Pact

LD2904100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0849 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Text] Ashgabat 29 April TASS—French President Francois Mitterrand said he believes there is an undoubted link between the 50th anniversary of the landing of the allies in Normandy and France's recent initiative to conclude a pact on European stability. Mitterrand said this in answer to a question from ITAR-TASS upon the conclusion of his two-day state visit to Turkmenistan. Mitterrand noted that he had participated in the war and in the events of 50 years ago.

"In a certain sense those events inspired us to form a structure which we now describe as the European Union. Countries that were at war twice within one century have arrived at the conclusion that they should base their future on accord and durable union, even if with former adversaries. The creators of post-war Europe scored success." Mitterrand noted that he now tries to continue their undertaking.

In the past, the balance of forces in the world was based on the existence of two opposing blocs, Mitterrand noted. The cold war that was in progress could have turned into a full-scale war any time. After the Soviet Union's dissolution, the military bloc opposing NATO disintegrated too. Many countries that were in that bloc and some former Union republics turned out to be "unprotected" to a certain degree. Europe is not a large continent and it is inhabited by many peoples. World history of many centuries is full of the clashes of their interests. What can be a guarantee against this in future? New states try to achieve real independence and ensure their security.

"There exists the CSCE mechanism," Mitterrand said. "It expands beyond Europe and is based on a good idea. Remarkable documents have been signed. Still this is a cumbersome, intricate organisation with slow decision-making. Hence, it does not offer enough opportunities to avert new wars, cannot take multistage measures to prevent conflicts," Mitterrand said. The French president believes "CSCE is not flexible enough and not prompt enough in decision-making as this process requires a consensus. But can there be accord between countries that are ready to fight one another? The conflict in former Yugoslavia shows that such an accord is impossible."

"This is why the French Government, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, in coordination with the president proposed a draft treaty described as a pact of stability. Its purpose is to avert possible conflicts. The pact must be open to all European countries and must become a pact of universal security under which no one will have advantages.

The head of the French Government assessed the initiative of Paris as one of the most important intitiatives in security area in the past five years.

Russian, EC Experts Unable To Agree on Uranium Exports

MK2904074094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian, EC Experts Unable To Smooth Over Differences on Uranium"]

[Text] According to a source at the Russian Federation Government, during talks in Brussels, EC and Russian experts did not manage to eliminate existing differences on nuclear fuel exports from the Russian Federation. In particular, France opposes the proposal that nuclear fuel be included in the list of commodities mentioned in the framework agreement between Russia and the EC. The French side is intent on having a restricting quota imposed on natural and enriched uranium exports and setting the minimum price for these commodities. At the same time, the French do not object to Russia's exports of uranium-enrichment services. Russia, for its part, insists that nuclear fuel should be included in the agreement, the source said.

Filatov Addresses Conference on CIS Economic Space

LD2604131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0757 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—Trends in the development of the CIS clearly show that processes within the CIS member states are geared to creating steadily greater supranational features in the commonwealth and removing unjustified barriers to economic and cultural ties. This was stated by Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation president's administration, at the opening of an international conference on "Legal problems and information aspects of creating a single economic space within the CIS."

The main aim of the forum which opened today is to standardize legislation in the independent states of the former USSR to the greatest degree possible, in order to create a single economic space within the CIS, but without harming their individual sovereignty in any way. The conference is being attended by delegations from all the commonwealth member states, the Baltic states and representatives of the European Community.

Vladimir Shumeyko, Chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Countries, is taking part in its work.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin have sent greetings to the conference, which will last two days.

Conference Concludes

MK2804114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Marat Salimov: "Shaping of CIS Legal Space. Information-Legal Integration May Become Reality"]

[Text] The results of the conference that ended yesterday, on "Legal and Information Problems of Creating a Single Economic Space of the Commonwealth of Independent States," may have a certain impact on the progress of integration processes in the CIS. If the governments of the CIS countries go along with the conference participants' initiative on the creation of a specialized coordination council, a single information and legal space may be created on the territory of the former USSR.

International experience shows that at present, cooperation between states in the sphere of information may provide the basis for boosting integration processes in the economic area. It is quite possible that the international conference, "Legal and Information Problems of Creating a Single Economic Space of the Commonwealth of Independent States," sponsored by the Russian State Legal Administration under the president's staff, has already laid the "cornerstone" in the foundation of an economic union. The conference participants' good intentions to make their contribution to the construction of the Commonwealth's building, however, can hardly be implemented without government support. This support more likely than not is in evidence at the level of the Commonwealth's interstate organs. One indirect evidence is the participation in the conference of CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korochenya.

The conference participants passed an "Appeal of the Conference Participants to the Heads of States and Parliaments of CIS Member Countries." It proposes to develop a single conception of an interstate exchange of legal information within the Commonwealth framework. Importantly, in the opinion of the conference participants, the main components for an effective exchange of legal information should be suitable coordinating structures to be formed within the CIS framework, and personnel skilled in the management of state affairs, highly skilled free market economy specialists to be trained at an interstate level.

The conference decided to organize work on an interstate basis to evolve a conception for the forming of a single information and legal space whose result should be the creation within the Commonwealth's framework of an interstate system of legal information that would foster the formation and development of the Commonwealth's economic space. A decisive contribution to information integration could be made by a coordinating council on the provision of legal information around the CIS whose creation was proposed by the conference participants. The council is supposed to be made up of representatives of all CIS member states. The council is supposed to carry out the legal analysis of normative-legal documents in effect on the territory of the CIS member countries and submit the results of this analysis to the state organs of the Commonwealth countries.

Shumeyko Favors Council of CIS News Agency Heads

LD2804164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow 28 April TASS—Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko spoke in favour of setting up a permanent council of heads of former Soviet republics' news agencies. He believes this council can be created within the framework of the already existing CIS institutions.

"We should not lose the single information space," Shumeyko told today heads of CIS news agencies, who had gathered in a meeting in Moscow. Even if we make significant economic progress, we will not achieve integration without preserving the single information space, the interparliamentary assembly chief stressed.

Taking part in the meeting, which is being held at ITAR-TASS news agency, are delegations from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan], Moldavia [Moldova], Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia [Turkmenistan], Uzbekistan and Ukraine, as well as embassy officials.

Peoples should be drawn closer together, Shumeyko said, by no means infringing upon the sovereignty of newly-independent states. Economic development of each country is the basis of the economic union, and the interparliamentary assembly is to play a significant role in this process. The commonwealth has already advanced considerably. Over 500 documents have been passed over the past two years, although some of them do not work. For this reason, Russian President Boris Yeltsin suggested "revising these documents and developing a concept of the commonwealth," according to Shumeyko. The draft concept is expected to be considered this coming autumn. Shumeyko believes, the parliaments of CIS member-countries should bring their legislative acts in line with one another with a view to facilitate customs, visa and other conditions to promote mutual integration.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Apr

LD2904055094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 29 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 29 April ITAR-TASS—Today's national newspapers led with reports about the signing of memorandum on civic peace in Moscow.

"Immense work has been done to draft the accord, taking into account the interests of different sides," presidential council member Aleksey Salmin wrote in the newspaper ROSSIISKIYE VESTI. "It has not yielded a balanced result in every instance, regrettably, and the text itself could do with more editing. But the main thing is not what the end result of text work is but what the accord is going to bring about, how it will work." Salmin thinks that it is necessary to create a mechanism of implementing the accord. "An important and necessary step has been taken, but the most important thin lies ahead—the concept behind the idea of the document has yet to me materialized."

"The great number of signatories is creating an illusion of unity of the country's political forces," PRAVDA says in a commentary. "But this is not really so. Not only the communists and the Yabloko faction have refused to sign. The socialists, democratic christians and a great number of trade unions declined to sign. This should make the president think why."

"What we watched yesterday (during the ceremony of signing of the accord) was only the beginning of a complex and even painful process of search for concord in Russia", the newspaper TRUD said.

One other event is highlighted by many newspapers—the killing of a Duma deputy, Andrey Aizderdis. The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA writes: "We would not like to dwell on versions of the murder, for the motive for the crime by no means reflects its substance. The substance is related to the reform course against which no minister and no fine programmes of combating crime can protect us. The redistribution of property, the formation of a new elite are not amusing trifles, as the ideologues of the course and their supporters would have us believe. There are more contestants of room at the top of Russia's new society than there is room for them. They are going to compete tooth and nail."

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI publishes a number of versions of the murder of the State Duma deputy, including political assassination, contract killing for economic reasons and mafia revenge. "It is known that Aizderdis was the publisher of the newspaper "KTO EST KTO" (WHO IS WHO) in Moscow's suburb of Khimki. In one of its recent issues, the newspaper published a list of "underworld leaders." The newspaper prefaced the publication with a statement that it is "the first ever publication of a near exhaustive list of criminal authorities, which was not available to law enforcement operatives until now."

The newspaper TRUD said, citing sources in the Russian Interior Ministry's chief directorate for combating organised crime, that the murder was prompted by Andrey Aizderdis' commercial and banking activity. According to ROSSISKIYE VESTI, before his election to the State Duma, Aizderdis was MKD bank president and headed a cooperative which built roads and housing."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports on the work of the president's security service. Commenting on former President Mikhail Gorbachev's "unscheduled meetings with crowds," a presidential security service member, Andrey Oligov, said "former members of the Ninth Chief Directorate (the former KGB's personal security department) know that "all unplanned sorties of Mikhail Sergeevich to shake hands with common people were simply stage-managed. Out in the street he would sometimes, without being aware of the fact, talked with KGB agents who were strategically placed in the right place at the right time."

PRAVDA carries an interview with Vyacheslav Kebich, head of the Belarusian Government. The Belarusian premier said the only way out of the crisis was "only through creating, in close alliance with Russia, an effective model of the economy and fair and just society."

Shokhin Views Talks With EU, IMF, G-7

LD2904085794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels 29 April TASS—Russia and the European Union have entered the home stretch in bilateral consultations ahead of the signing of an agreement on partnership and cooperation, Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin told ITAR-TASS during a brief stopover in Brussels on his way from back home from Washington.

Shokhin said a number of barriers have already been cleared, but a final accord can be reached only after his meeting with Deputy Chairman of the European Commission Leon Britten, during which trade in enriched uranium will be discussed among other things.

Russia has already tabled compromise versions which can be finalised into an agreed upon text. If this is done, it would be possible to initial the agreement before the end of June while Greece is holding the chair in the European Union and sign the agreement when Germany takes over.

Aleksandr Shokhin, the official head of the Russian delegation which was conducting talks with the European Union in Brussels, was appointed to represent Russia at the funeral of the former U.S. President Richard Nixon and subsequently had to cut short his stay in the Belgian capital to just one night. His meeting with Leon Britten will take place in Moscow next Sunday.

According to Shokhin, the preparation of the agreement with the European Union took longer than expected because last autumn in Russia, after President Yeltsin failed to attend the meeting with the leaders of the EU countries in Copenhagen, rejected the "lighter-weight" version of the accord proposed by the European Union. That version was signed by Ukraine, whose economy was described as "an economy with a state-run system of trade." Russia continued to work towards greater benefits than those provided for in the rejected version.

Speaking about his impressions from the trip to the United States, where he led a delegation to a session of the provisional committee of the International Monetary Fund and the World Banks' development committee, Aleksandr Shokhin pointed to an interesting peculiarity: These world financial organisations are worried more by problems of security and crime than by economic issues in Russia. It means that they no longer doubt that Russia would pursue a normal economic policy and create a favorable investment climate.

Shokhin also held a meeting in Washington with representatives of the big seven. His previous meeting with them in February was mainly in the nature of finding out more about the situation in Russia, but in April "we got down to business," Shokhin said. "We discussed the investment climate and soliciting investments." The gathering also discussed questions relating to the forthcoming G-7 Summit in naples. During the funeral of ex-President Richard Nixon, the Russian vice-premier had a conversation with President Bill Clinton, who said Russia would not have any particular problems concerning its participation in the "political Group of Seven." Problems remain concerning the economic format, and these problems must be discussed. The G-7 leaders are prepared to expand the agenda of their meeting in Naples, and Russia proposed discussing not only financial support of economic reforms but also global economic problems in the solution to which Russia is interested and can actually contribute. One is the creation of a non-discriminatory trade order. Along with this the normalisation of the situation on the commodity markets calls for working out measures, on a multilateral basis and with the participation of Russia, to take due account of mutual interests of parties involved.

As concerns negotiations with the Paris Club, it was agreed that in late May or early June it would consider a variant of agreement with Russia for 1994 (the four-month extension of the terms of the accord for 1993 is now in effect).

In the International Monetary Fund, Russia continues to work in favour of the initiative calling for the additional issuance of the fund currency (special borrowing rights giving access to these resources to Russia and other countries, which did not take part in the distribution of these funds earlier. If the unfair approach is removed, Russia and other Commonwealth, east and west European countries will be able to get about one billion dollars.

Russia is working towards partnership relations in handling with universal problems, it is not just asking for help but is upholding universal rules with the help of which both Russia and others can benefit. "This will be our leit-motif in contacts with the Group of Seven and international financial organisations," Shokhin stressed. "It is not aid in exchange for reforms that we want, we want to create universal mechanisms of partner interaction."

More on Shokhin's Views

PM2804135094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Russia's Position Prompts Optimism in West's Financial Big Shots. Aleksandr Shokhin on the Conference of G-7 Finance Ministers"]

[Text] Washington—Although a Russian delegation's participation in the conference of G-7 finance ministers became a kind of tradition some time ago, our representatives have not for a long time enjoyed such a cordial, approving, not to say welcoming, atmosphere as the one that prevailed last Sunday [24 April] at the IMF building in Washington. Ironically apologizing for using an "excessively Soviet" word, Deputy Prime Minister A.N. Shokhin said that the support for the present Russian Government's course was "unanimous."

"I was glad to see so much optimism around the table," U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the conference, commented on its conclusion. For the first time in quite a long time, Russia contributed its share of optimism to the discussion.

A few days before the conference, to which world financial circles traditionally attach very great significance, IMF Executive Director Michel Camdessus had, in several public statements, imparted pleasant impressions of his prolonged visit to Russia. Whether he had been too alarmed beforehand by newspaper reports in which the broad shoulders of V. Zhirinovskiy overshadowed the country's entire political scene, or whether the departure of several young reformists from the government had been seen as a fatal blow to market freedom, in any case the contrast proved striking, and M. Camdessus' remarks exuded what in Soviet times used to be called a "sense of deep pride and legitimate satisfaction." Not only did the "long hours of talks" with Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin convince the IMF executive director of the government's commitment to reforms, but also the meetings in the State Duma, far from ruining this general impression, actually added to the optimism, since he recognized that there are some very responsible and knowledgeable people in the Duma.

No Doubts About the Course of Reforms

"At Sunday's G-7 meeting unanimous support was expressed for the Russian Government's course," A. Shokhin said at a meeting with Russian journalists on Tuesday [26 April]. "This was expressed in the fact that the IMF board of directors granted the second part of the credit for systemic transformations, and also in the general tone of the discussion compared with the meeting at Kromberg in February of this year. At that time the discussion concerned whether the (Russian) government intended to continue the course of reforms at all. But this time what was discussed was pragmatic problems such as providing the conditions for an influx of private investments into Russia, the creation of favorable tax and customs regimes for such an influx of investments, and the problem of insuring investments in Russia against political risks."

A second group of questions under discussion was connected with the creation of nondiscriminatory regimes in commodity markets that are fundamental for us—aluminum, uranium, space launches, etc. "It is a question of creating a universal legal base whereby Russia would be seen as a country with a transitional economy, not a country with a centralized state system of trade and economy," A. Shokhin explained. "That way exactly the same criteria would be applied to it as to any other country."

In this connection the Russian delegation expressed an "urgent desire" for Russia finally to be freed from the Jackson-Vanik amendment. Its political aspect consisted in pressure on governments that do not allow their citizens freely to leave their country and return there. In A. Shokhin's opinion, this simply does not apply to present-day Russia. But the economic aspect of the amendment is that a discriminatory regime could be applied against our country at any moment. And that creates an off-putting atmosphere for investors.

World Bank for a Plant Kindergarten

The third of the main questions at the conference concerned reorienting the package of support for the Russian reforms. The package was announced earlier, but a significant part of it was not brought to bear on developing the system of social protection for the population.

"We discussed a possible mechanism for this switch. Specifically, it was said that for a transitional period local budgets should receive specific financial help, and backing should be given to federal programs such as a program of support for coal-mining regions," A. Shokhin said. This had been said before, but the novelty of the vice prime minister's information was that henceforth, World Bank credits will be applied to such purposes.

The Russian delegation submitted a number of proposals in connection with the activity of the so-called Paris Club—representatives of the group of creditor countries. "At the moment we have a temporary situation, we are making payments for 1994 in line with the 1993 agreement, which has been extended to 1 May. In the light of our budget's potential, we need a better agreement than the one that existed in 1993." By "better" the vice prime minister clearly meant more favorable terms for Russia, but would the creditors agree to this? "There is an understanding," A. Shokhin said, somewhat vaguely.

Russia also raised the question of its new status in the Paris Club as not only a debtor country, but also a creditor country. "Very many developing countries have debts to us, as the Soviet Union's successor," A. Shokhin said. "We are the chief creditor of, for instance, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and others. In this connection we do not insist on full membership, but, for instance, observer status. That would be appropriate to Russia's real position."

A. Shokhin said that, in discussing questions of collaboration with ministers from the world's seven most developed countries, "we emphasize in every way that Russia holds a special position. On the one hand it is, so to speak, petitioning for support for the reforms and systemic transformation in Russia, but on the other hand it is a donor—in particular to countries that were formerly republics of the Soviet Union. The scale of this aid is vast, and it is a heavy burden on the budget, and this is done not because of any imperial ambitions on Russia's part, but for very simple reasons—you cannot cut off the gas in winter, you cannot leave those states without heat or electricity. Therefore, Russia is obliged to "supply them with relatively cheap and sometimes free resources." [quotemarks as published]

"In this context we would also like to support a system proposed by the IMF executive director," A. Shokhin continued. "What I am referring to is that Russia could offer credits to the CIS states jointly with other willing countries, but formally it would be in the form of credits from international financial organizations. We would thereby clear ourselves of possible accusations of imperial aspirations, and on the other hand increase repayment guarantees, because the credits would have the status of credits from international financial institutions."

Near the end of the session, a piece of news that everyone found alarming arrived from Moscow. News agency cables reported that the Duma, with the government's consent, had increased the country's expenditure budget by 8 trillion rubles—such a substantial sum that the threat of inflation could have spoiled the good impression that everyone had received of the new approaches in Russia. "We spent half the day today explaining what all this meant," A. Shokhin said with a smile. "We explained to everyone, including Camdessus himself."

"It is true that the budget figures have 'changed somewhat,'" the vice prime minister noted. But what happened was in the main a technical adjustment. We decided to release credits to agriculture—about 6 trillion rubles—not through the Central Bank and commercial banks, which is a long road, and experience shows that here there are many abuses and improper use of the credits. The commercial banks make the credits work for them before directing them to the countryside. And we have decided to do it in the form of budget appropriations. Overall monetary emission is not changed, but these credits, being recorded under the budget heading, increase the apparent budget deficit, but in principle, this is IMF methodology. The IMF has long been making us show these concessionary credits in the budget. Now we can dictate the terms for the expenditure of these resources."

The Russian delegation set forth its position on attracting investments to Russia. "Unless, in the next few months, we can organize this influx, contradictions will arise between a relatively rigorous credit and financial policy and a deepening recession in production." A. Shokhin said that the granting of $1.5 billion for systemic transformations in the near future does not cause the slightest euphoria in the government, since this money is "already accounted for in the budget, we have already spent it"—because the government was sure of receiving it. The question of the need to go over to medium-term payment balances—otherwise there will be payment peaks.

"For instance, this year, out of the sum of over $4 billion allocated for servicing and extinguishing the foreign debt, we are forced to spend a large proportion on servicing Russia's debts—not the former Soviet debts. In this connection we are actively suggesting to G-7 that the borrowed credits be applied without Russian Government guarantees. Outlines have already been drawn up. In accordance with framework agreements signed in September by the U.S. 'Eximbank' and the corresponding Russian organizations, the Central Bank of Russia and the Finance Ministry offer so-called comfort terms for foreign investors. True, at the moment this only applies to the oil and gas sector. But the comfort is expressed in the fact that guarantees can be offered against credits, these guarantees can be sold for rubles, rubles can be converted into foreign currency, and foreign currency can be repatriated."

Thus, instead of government guarantees, which are expressed in the formula "if an enterprise does not pay for itself, we will pay," new guarantees are appearing: You can demand that the enterprise, the Central Bank, and the Finance Ministry fulfill quite specific conditions. In particular, the Finance Ministry must, under this contract, compensate foreign investors for less favorable taxation conditions or other things connected with a change in legislation. "Many people are prepared to work with us on these terms. We are now holding talks with the Italians and the Germans," the vice prime minister concluded, clearly satisfied with the results of the conference of the G-7 finance ministers in the U.S. capital.

Further Shokhin Comments

LD2904065394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0100 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Excerpts] Brussels, 29 Apr—Russia and the European Union are completing their consultations on the partnership and cooperation agreement, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent during his brief stopover in Brussels on his way from the United States to Moscow.

A number of barriers blocking the progress toward agreement have been removed, said the deputy head of the Russian Government. He added however that a meeting between him and Leon Brittan, deputy chairman of the European Commission, would be necessary to reach a final agreement on questions of principle. Among other things, they will discuss trade in enriched uranium. Russia has proposed compromise solutions, which will have to be developed into approved texts. If this is achieved, then the agreement could be initialled while Greece is still chairing the EC—that is, before the end of June—and it could be signed when Germany takes over the chairmanship.

Aleksandr Shokhin, the official head of the Russian delegation at the talks in Brussels, was delayed in the United States by the funeral of Richard Nixon, so that his stay in the "capital of Europe" has been curtailed to just one night. His meeting with Leon Brittan will take place in Moscow where the latter is going on 1 May. [passage omitted]

As it deals with global issues, Russia is striving to build relations on a partnership basis; it does not merely ask for help but insists that there should be universal rules, beneficial both to her and to other countries, said Deputy Prime Minister A. Shokhin. "This will be the leitmotiv in our contacts both with the G-7 and with international financial organizations—not aid in exchange for reforms but creating general mechanisms of interaction between partners," Aleksandr Shokhin stressed.

Grachev, ROK Defense Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD2904084694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0714 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—"The visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the Republic of Korea in 1992 marked the start of our relations," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said, opening talks with Yi Pyong-tae, ROK national defense minister, who is in Russia on an official visit. "We are offering South Korea cooperation in various fields, including the military."

Yi Pyong-tae, for his part, noted that, during the flight from Tokyo to Moscow, the South Korean delegation "crossed the huge territory of Russia and we sensed the great potential of your country."

As already reported, the defense ministers of Russia and the ROK are exchanging views on the development of the situation in Northeast Asia and, primarily, on the issue of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula. P. Grachev and Yi Pyong-tae will discuss ways of expanding Russian-South Korean military cooperation. A document on mutual understanding over measures to develop ties between the Defense Ministries of Russia and the ROK in 1994-95 is expected to be signed.

During his stay in Russia, the head of the South Korean defense department will also meet high-ranking representatives of the Russian Government and will visit miltary units and defense enterprises.

Discussion Continues

LD2904102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] At the end of today's talks, Pavel Grachev and Yi Pyong-tae signed a memorandum on mutual understanding between the Defense Ministries of Russia and the Republic of Korea and a declaration on military cooperation between the two countries. In the words of Russian Defense Minister, these documents reflect the sides' intention to develop broader cooperation and determine the main events within the framework of ties between the two countries' military departments in 1994-95.

Pavel Grachev told journalists after the documents were signed that he had received an invitation from his South Korean counterpart to visit the Republic of Korea in 1995. We hope, said the Russian defense minister, to sign additional documents there on closer cooperation, perhaps in the military-technical sphere. He did not rule out the possibility of an agreement on preventing various kinds of unauthorized military actions being signed in Seoul.

Shumeyko to Head Peace Initiative in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2904083094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0654 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the CIS interparliamentary assembly, is to head an important peace-making mission to Nagorno-Karabakh. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by informed sources in Transcaucasia.

Interview With Black Sea Fleet Commander

LD2804165994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 28 Apr 94

["Exclusive" report No. 17 of 67]

[Text] According to politologists, the negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian Defense Ministers on a stage-by-stage settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem held on April 21-22 in Sevastopol were fruitless. The delegations of two countries have not signed any documents. At the same time the Russian party refused to sign the protocol of the negotiations "due to non-constructive position of the Ukrainian delegation," as one of the members of the Russian delegation said. As experts assert, Kiev's position presents the major stumbling-block because it deems it possible to preserve the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea only on a temporary basis and insists on a joint basing of the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's Navy in Sevastopol. At the same time the parties reached an agreement stipulating that Kiev would receive 18.3 percent of the Fleet's ships and Russia would buy the remaining part. To this effect Admiral EDUARD BALTIN, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, answered the questions put by our Interfax correspondent Sergey Safronov.

IF: The first and the major question which I would like to put to you is the division of the Black Sea Fleet. All Russians, but not only servicemen, are deeply concerned over this fact.

E.BALTIN: This problem is unclear until now. The Ukrainian side puts forward quite different variants regarding the Fleet's division, including the 50:50 proportion. However, it is not clear for me what this means. It is necessary to take into account the value of the property destined to division but not only its quantity. We should introduce definite factors. For example, the value of one naval engineer college in Holland is equal to the value of a half of the Black Sea Fleet because there are many mechanisms and equipment in the college, including atomic reactors for submarines of two generations.

At the present stage Ukraine proposes to Russia to divide the Black Sea Fleet after its inventory as of December 1, 1992, that is as of the day I took the office of the Black Sea Fleet commander. However, it is known that before this date Ukraine had already misappropriated 35 percent of the Fleet, including material reserves of the Black Sea Fleet's rear service. According to available information, total losses of the Black Sea Fleet are 101,658 million rubles in 1991 prices.

IF: What are the largest sites misappropriated by Kiev?

E.BALTIN: First of all, I'd like to note that Russia has lost two naval colleges and a unique center for re-training of naval aviation pilots - it was the sole center in the USSR; the country paid several billion rubles for its construction. The center was used for training of carrier aviation pilots. There was a unique equipment for aircraft's landing, a runway strip with warming, a springboard, etc. A factory for the repair of all major kinds of the Fleet's aviation equipment was in the center in addition to the training base. Now Kiev tries to let this center to Russia. In my opinion, it would be erroneous to rent it because for Moscow it would be a gold rent - a company of SU-27 aircraft assigned to the 60th corps of Ukraine's air defense forces, an aviation grouping near the city of Saki, and the Ukrainian garrison will be maintained at the expense of this rent.

In addition, there is an agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the cooperation in the sphere of ship building and ship repair signed on January 15, 1993 by the former Ukrainian premier Leonid Kuchma and Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. In accordance with this agreement the Russian party pledges to supply Kiev with accessory equipment, material resources, armaments, and other military equipment for the ships being built by Ukraine's Navy.

Kiev has received a missile cruiser Slava, minor antisubmarine and assault landing crafts, and a patrol boat. These ships were almost ready for exploitation (their readiness was 65-85 percent). The time has passed but Ukraine has not built a single ship. However, it has re-named the missile cruiser two times, at first it was called Bogdan Khmelnitskiy (the initiator of Ukraine's reunification with Russia in XVII century - Interfax) and now - Vilna Ukraina. It is almost ready for 90 percent and Kiev has no force to finish its construction. Meanwhile, the cruiser has 16 rocket launchers with the range 500 kilometers. There are no such ships either in the Black or in the Mediterranean Seas, or in the composition of the 6th Fleet of the US Navy...

Besides, the Ukrainian party started to dismantle the cruiser Varyag at the Nikolayev shipyards which was almost ready for service; Ukraine intends to cut the cruiser for metal. The cruiser Ulyanovsk can face the same fate. Destruction of the Fleet is practically underway. I believe that in this case Ukraine has inflicted damage not only to Russia because these ships were the national treasury of all peoples of the Soviet Union.

IF: It's not quite clear, why do we need to make inventory of the Black Sea Fleet if a strict registration of all material resources is obligatory held at the Fleet...

E.BALTIN: I believe that this inventory is nothing more but an attempt of the Ukrainian party to prolong solution of this issue and to avoid the agreements reached by Russian and Ukrainian presidents earlier and a strive "to dig in an alien bag." Both Russian and Ukrainian military departments know everything about the Black Sea Fleet, they know about every screw, not speaking about the ships.

I'd like to note that in contradiction to the Yalta agreements, since last August Kiev stopped to finance training of the Ukrainian Navy personnel which is being carried out on the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and takes much money. For example, in the US Navy training of one naval conscript, which is to last 48 days on international standards, costs more than 5000 dollars. Ukrainian mariners are undergoing a more serious training in the training detachments of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and receive military professions almost free of charge.

The majority of Ukrainians (thousands of them are on service in the Black Sea Fleet) finish their training in the rank of petty officers and are well-trained. As a commander, I do not have any claims to mariners who swore the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, they serve splendidly. Especially strong personnel is being called up in Ukraine's western regions where conscripts undergo moral training in military commissariats. The conscripts are explained that they will be Ukraine's "gold fund" and the Ukrainian people need them badly. There have been no inter-ethnic conflicts among rank-and-file personnel. Ordinary people understand everything.

IF: But it is quite natural that Ukraine needs its own Navy.

E.BALTIN: I believe that Ukraine claims for a part of the Black Sea Fleet ships only in order to immediately sell them abroad as scrap amounting to 120-140 dollars per ton. At the same time, currently Kiev is experiencing the deepest crisis and does not understand what threat for the country pose those thousands of mariners who will be thrown into streets.

IF: Once upon a time you said that there is little water in the Black Sea and much politics...

E.BALTIN: The situation has not changed. As a matter of fact, there is too much politics around the Black Sea Fleet but economy decides everything. I believe that extreme political decisions are adopted at the time when the country's leaders understand that the economy is experiencing a crisis. This results in a confrontation between peoples.

IF: Over the last period of time several Ukrainian politicians, including high-ranking ones, have voiced their statements to draw "a third party" to solve the Black Sea Fleet problems, they even called a concrete address—the United States. What is your attitude towards this fact?

E.BALTIN: I can express only my perplexity on this case. Personally I categorically oppose Washington's participation.

It's primarily Russia's problem. Given historic and political realities, Moscow is negotiating with Kiev. It's hardly probable that the Russian Federation will negotiate on the Fleet with the involvement of the American party.

In general, I believe that having interpreted the Moscow agreement signed by presidents Kravchuk and Yeltsin on its own way, Kiev has violated one of the major articles of this agreement, namely on separate basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's Navy. I am convinced that the presence of two Fleets and headquarters in one place of stationing disorganizes the work of the servicemen and destabilizes the situation in Sevastopol.

In case the situation does not change, consequences can be unpredictable.

In my opinion, absence of money for the construction of its own base is the major reason of this position on the part of Kiev. It's easier to live for somebody's money.

IF: What influence can exert the present situation in the Black Sea Fleet on the international situation?

E.BALTIN: The activity of the West's forces on the Black Sea is being strengthened because any vacuum in the political space should be filled. Last year NATO's 15 ships visited the Black Sea in accordance with planned exercises, with the participation of Bulgarian and Romanian fleets as well. There has been no such an intensive pressure before. According to available information, a conference of NATO's Allied armed forces was held late October which passed a decision to include the Black Sea into the zone of NATO's interests.

According to the unanimously adopted document, a formation of NATO's ships consisting of 8-9 crafts should be created in this region; it will exert control over the activity of other fleets in the Black Sea.

Turkey has procured eight Knox frigates which are equipped with missiles. The Turkish fleet has enormously increased its missile potential.

IF: What is your attitude towards joint exercises which are conducted between the fleets of the Russian Federation and NATO?

E.BALTIN: Such an exercise was conducted in the Norwegian Sea not long ago. One destroyer participated in it on the part of the Russian North Fleet. A three-star admiral was aboard this destroyer, However, a Norwegian rear admiral was commanding at the exercises, it corresponds to the level of a brigade commander...

IF: The Republic of Crimea has its first president - Yuriy Meshkov. How you would build your relations with him?

I'd like to note that in contradiction to the Yalta agreements, since last August Kiev stopped to finance training of the Ukrainian Navy personnel which is being carried out on the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and takes much money. For example, in the US Navy training of one naval conscript, which is to last 48 days on international standards, costs more than 5000 dollars. Ukrainian mariners are undergoing a more serious training in the training detachments of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and receive military professions almost free of charge.

The majority of Ukrainians (thousands of them are on service in the Black Sea Fleet) finish their training in the rank of petty officers and are well-trained. As a commander, I do not have any claims to mariners who swore the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, they serve splendidly. Especially strong personnel is being called up in Ukraine's western regions where conscripts undergo moral training in military commissariats. The conscripts are explained that they will be Ukraine's "gold fund" and the Ukrainian people need them badly. There have been no inter-ethnic conflicts among rank-and-file personnel. Ordinary people understand everything.

IF: But it is quite natural that Ukraine needs its own Navy.

E.BALTIN: I believe that Ukraine claims for a part of the Black Sea Fleet ships only in order to immediately sell them abroad as scrap amounting to 120-140 dollars per ton. At the same time, currently Kiev is experiencing the deepest crisis and does not understand what threat for the country pose those thousands of mariners who will be thrown into streets.

IF: Once upon a time you said that there is little water in the Black Sea and much politics...

E.BALTIN: The situation has not changed. As a matter of fact, there is too much politics around the Black Sea Fleet but economy decides everything. I believe that extreme political decisions are adopted at the time when the country's leaders understand that the economy is experiencing a crisis. This results in a confrontation between peoples.

IF: Over the last period of time several Ukrainian politicians, including high-ranking ones, have voiced their statements to draw "a third party" to solve the Black Sea Fleet problems, they even called a concrete address—the United States. What is your attitude towards this fact?

E.BALTIN: I can express only my perplexity on this case. Personally I categorically oppose Washington's participation.

It's primarily Russia's problem. Given historic and political realities, Moscow is negotiating with Kiev. It's hardly probable that the Russian Federation will negotiate on the Fleet with the involvement of the American party.

In general, I believe that having interpreted the Moscow agreement signed by presidents Kravchuk and Yeltsin on its own way, Kiev has violated one of the major articles of this agreement, namely on separate basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's Navy. I am convinced that the presence of two Fleets and headquarters in one place of stationing disorganizes the work of the servicemen and destabilizes the situation in Sevastopol.

In case the situation does not change, consequences can be unpredictable.

In my opinion, absence of money for the construction of its own base is the major reason of this position on the part of Kiev. It's easier to live for somebody's money.

IF: What influence can exert the present situation in the Black Sea Fleet on the international situation?

E.BALTIN: The activity of the West's forces on the Black Sea is being strengthened because any vacuum in the political space should be filled. Last year NATO's 15 ships visited the Black Sea in accordance with planned exercises, with the participation of Bulgarian and Romanian fleets as well. There has been no such an intensive pressure before. According to available information, a conference of NATO's Allied armed forces was held late October which passed a decision to include the Black Sea into the zone of NATO's interests.

According to the unanimously adopted document, a formation of NATO's ships consisting of 8-9 crafts should be created in this region; it will exert control over the activity of other fleets in the Black Sea.

Turkey has procured eight Knox frigates which are equipped with missiles. The Turkish fleet has enormously increased its missile potential.

IF: What is your attitude towards joint exercises which are conducted between the fleets of the Russian Federation and NATO?

E.BALTIN: Such an exercise was conducted in the Norwegian Sea not long ago. One destroyer participated in it on the part of the Russian North Fleet. A three-star admiral was aboard this destroyer, However, a Norwegian rear admiral was commanding at the exercises, it corresponds to the level of a brigade commander...

IF: The Republic of Crimea has its first president - Yuriy Meshkov. How you would build your relations with him?

E.BALTIN: Meshkov has made several resolute political moves and this testifies to the fact that he is a resolute man; as any military man I respect resolute people. At the same time I believe that Meshkov has not made any constitutional violations.

IF: How the polemics around the Black Sea Fleet has influenced its combat efficiency?

E.BALTIN: The level of combat efficiency has not lowered compared, say, with 1990. The Black Sea Fleet has received various awards for rocket firing, torpedo firings from submarines, and for the operations of the tactical group of missile boats. The marine infantry battalion on fire preparation, which is the best in Russia, serves at the Black Sea Fleet.

IF: What is your opinion concerning the plans to create a Russian naval base in the Georgian port of Poti?

E.BALTIN: I see no sense in this idea. This zone is deserted by the war; does Russia need this burden, is it not beneficial to build a base on its own territory? There are suitable places for this, say, in the region of Anapa. There exist well developed infrastructures there. One should bear in mind two notions, military necessity and economic expediency. Any operation, even if it is thoroughly prepared, will fail if it has no material support. Economy but not a military commander is the major winner in a war.

IF: Are Russian ships on service in the Mediterranean Sea now?

E.BALTIN: The Black Sea Fleet is permanently stationing there but given our economic opportunities the number of Russian ships in the Mediterranean Sea is a minimum one, there are less than ten ships there.

IF: Has the Black Sea Fleet suffered due to the fact that Ukraine stopped power supply to Crimea for some time?

E.BALTIN: Of course, the Fleet has experienced several losses, we were forced to use our own power supply systems, diesel generators, and boiling-rooms, as a result we have spent a great amount of fuel. It is known, that Ukraine is provided with its own resources only for 30 percent, it receives the rest amount from Russia. Consequently, Kiev has no right to speak about possible energy blockade of Crimea.

In case it takes place, the Black Sea Fleet can lay several underwater power cables via the Kerchenskiy bay to Russia within two or three months and solve this problem. It is quite possible from the technical point of view.

IF: They say that you perfectly shoot from any kinds of arms...

E.BALTIN: This is my hobby. I think that every officer, irrespective of the fact where he serves, should possess good skills in order to shoot any kinds of arms.

Missile Retargeting Not To Impair Combat Readiness

LD2804173094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1706 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—"Missile retargeting" planned for this coming May is not to impair the combat readiness of Russian missile forces, according to their commander-in-chief, Colonel-General Igor Sergeyev.

In an interview with TASS after today's meeting with some foreign military attaches, Sergeyev said the "retargeting" will be performed in full accordance with the Moscow declaration signed by the Russian and U.S. Presidents. Under this document, Moscow and Washington are obliged to retarget their strategic nuclear missiles by May 30, 1994, so that they should not be targeted at each other. This initiative was also joined by Great Britain.

According to experts, the scheme of retargeting is not complicated: geographical reference of the targets in Russia and the United States put in the computer working memory are expected to be replaced by those of some desert areas of the world ocean.

Kozyrev Sees 'Reasonable Alternative to War'

LD2804172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 28 Apr—The foreign ministers of Russia and Germany, Andrey Kozyrev and Klaus Kinkel, discussed a number of extremely important subjects today at the German Government's Petersberg residence on the Rhine River: Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's planned official visit to the Germany on 11-13 May of this year, ways of settling the Bosnian problem, the situation in the Near East, and the situation in the Republic of South Africa.

"I have had talks with Russia's foreign minister, or rather my friend, Andrey Kozyrev...." In this unexpectedly friendly manner, Kinkel began his statement at the closing news conference. He stressed that people in Germany are awaiting the arrival of President Yeltsin with interest and joy, and preparations are on the whole complete, with only a number of technical matters to be clarified.

The main thought expressed by the head of the German department was that Germans considers it important for Russia to be fully involved in the process of seeking a settlement in Bosnia and that all decisions on this question should be adopted only with the participation of the Russian side. This applies not only to Bosnia but also to the Near East.

After his introductory statement, Kinkel was frankly bored, shifting his weight from one foot to the other while the Russian minister was given a hard time, as virtually the entire hail of questions fell on him. The journalists learned that Russian views on a Bosnian settlement coincided to a considerable extent with the Kinkel-Juppe initiative that was put forward by the foreign ministers of the FRG and France within the framework of the European Union [EU]. "The task now is to make this position, which is becoming consolidated, more precise—taking into account the experience of recent months—and also to get the United States involved in it."

"As a result of a series of meetings and conversations that took place this week", Kozyrev said, "I feel considerable satisfaction in connection with the fact that our Western partners are not confining themselves to settling the problem by military means, which are an extreme measure in extreme circumstances. Along with Russia, the West is prepared to double the pace and quality of work specifically on the political approach to settling the conflict in Bosnia. The forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers could prove to be a decisive stage on the path to holding a summit conference."

At the same time, there were tough notes, normally not associated with the foreign minister, to be detected in Kozyrev's words, especially with regard to the actions of the parties to the Bosnian conflict. "We need to see how events develop, but the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, the EU, and the United Nations could also discuss the Bosnian problem without the involvement of the conflicting parties. It seems to me," he continued, "that the important thing now is for Russia, the United States, the EU, and the United Nations to work out a coordinated approach. This is necessary in order to make the conflicting parties in Bosnia aware that there is a reasonable alternative to war and that they will not succeed in playing on differences between various states."

"The conflicting sides in Bosnia should get it clear: They can no longer continue the game in which one side or the other puts forward deliberately unacceptable demands, for example, on territory. There will be no more of this," Kozyrev said.

... the military part of the Cologne-Bonn airport, then by helicopter to "Petersberg", three hours later back to the airport. [sentence as received] The aircraft set out for Moscow. The latest visit by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to the FRG has ended. It was a working visit.

Kozyrev Returns to Moscow, Reports on Talks

LD2804204794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—A ministerial level meeting involving Russia, the United States, the European Union [EU], and the United Nations to discuss matters regarding a Bosnian settlement could be held as early as the beginning of May. This was stated by Andrey Kozyrev on Thursday [28 April] evening upon his return to Moscow from his trip to Geneva and Bonn, where he had talks with the leaders of the foreign policy departments of the United States, France, and Germany.

"There is a fairly big chance that success will be achieved in organizing a ministerial meeting during the course of next week," the Russian foreign minister told journalists. He said that a possible venue for the meeting was Geneva.

According to Kozyrev, much will depend on how things go in the contact group of four that has been established at the level of special representatives to prepare a full report on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It has emerged that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who represents Russia in the group, will have a meeting in Oslo within the next few days with Thorvald Stoltenberg, the cochairman of the coordinating committee of the International Conference on Yugoslavia.

Kozyrev Calls for Military Cooperation With ROK

LD2904102694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 29 Apr 94

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Relations between Russia and South Korea are definitely improving, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said at a meeting today with South Korean National Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, here on an official visit. I am pleased that the military component in these relations has a worthy place, the head of Russian diplomacy said. Not only do we no longer look at each other along the barrel of a gun, we are ready to cooperate in setting up these relations for the joint security of friendly states and to have full-scale military cooperation, A. Kozyrev stressed.

During the meeting, the ministers intend to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula along with other international problems and questions of mutual relations.

Syrian Military Deal Covers Only Defensive Systems

PM2804163594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Sychev: "Moscow Considering Writing Off Syrian Debts"]

[Text] "The Syrians have acknowledged their debt to Russia and our political succession. That is major progress. The talks will continue," according to Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special representative in the Near East and member of the government delegation which has been conducting talks in Damascus under the leadership of Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government. The delegation members prefer not to go into the details of the continuing talks, but the idea of writing off part of the Syrian debt was apparently discussed in Damascus.

The problem of the debt, which stands at approximately $10 billion, is the most acute one in our relations with Syria. A large part of the debt results from major purchases of Soviet weapons in the seventies and eighties.

Skokov's [as published] trip to Syria was supposed not only to revive the frozen relations with a partner in the Near East who was once important to the USSR. The visit was part of the revitalized Russian policy in the region, which Moscow sees as the second most important area after Yugoslavia in which it can demonstrate Russia's new role in world affairs as a great power.

Russia is pretty well placed in the region. It has the opportunity to establish qualitatively new links with old friends. It has many former compatriots in Israel. The first test was the request made by the Russian delegation in Damascus to help find Israeli servicemen missing during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Moscow could also be of use in the process of the settlement of the Syrian-Israeli conflict over the Golan Heights. captured by Israel in 1967. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to pass to Damascus a proposal on the stage-by-stage return of the occupied territories over a period of 10 years.

Russia's growing importance in Near East affairs was acknowledged in Moscow by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Evidently, it was this that prompted him to settle for Moscow's promise not to sell new offensive weapons to Syria, a matter that was broached in connection with the agreement on military-technical cooperation signed by Soskovets in Damascus. Moscow will resume supplies of spare parts and also purely defensive weapon systems. It is to be hoped that this treaty will not lead to a further increase in Syria's debt to Russia, which is facing massive financial problems.

Aide Doubts Syrian Debt To Be Written Off

PM2804162794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Sychev: "Russia Lets Syria Off $8 Billion. Moscow Casts Doubts on This Report from Damascus"]

[Text] Russia is prepared to write off for Syria over 80 percent of its debt. This was reported by the ITAR-TASS agency, according to Yuriy Mikhaylov, adviser to Firzt Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, who is head of the Russian government delegation to Syria.

Talks are under way in Damascus on a wide range of issues that have built up over the past few years, which have been marked by a sharp downturn in relations between Syria and Russia. Annual trade between the two countries now stands at only $50 million. Once a major consumer of Soviet weapons, Syria buys practically nothing from Russia. The Syrian debt stands at approximately $10 billion, and a large part of the payments on it is already overdue.

The government delegation is empowered to tackle the whole range of Russian-Syrian relations. According to Soskovets' adviser, Russia is suggesting that the remaining 20 percent be paid off as follows: Damascus would pay 60 percent in hard currency and the rest in consumer goods over a period of 10 years. In other words, despite being in financial straits itself, Russia is giving away $8 billion and offering very easy terms for the repayment of the remaining part of the debt.

Does the Russian package of proposals the delegation took with it to Damascus really contain these offers? Igor Gryzanov, chief of the Syria department at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry suggested that IZVESTIYA wait for the delegation to return.

The Foreign Ministry doubted the possibility of such a large part of the debt being written off. It would require a decision by the government or president. "I doubt whether we would make such concessions," a Foreign Ministry aide said, "although I cannot speak for the first vice premier. We want to achieve a solution, but not to Russia's detriment."

How useful it would be for Russia to waive part of the debt in order to revitalize economic relations with Syria it is hard to say. If Damascus is finding it difficult to pay the debt, then the likelihood is that trade with Syria will not be very worthwhile for Russia in the future.

Russian, Azeri Parliaments Sign Cooperation Deal

LD2804173694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko and visiting Azerbaijani Parliament Chairman Rasul Guliyev signed an agreement on inter-parliamentary cooperation between the Russian Federal Assembly and the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet in Moscow on Thursday.

The agreement comes into force as of the day it is signed.

The sides pledged to promote all forms of inter-parliamentary cooperation in order to establish a legal basis for the development of relations in all spheres of mutual interest. They also agreed to set up a standing inter-parliamentary commission to coordinate interaction.

The commission will aim at promoting the development of state relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan. It will hold sessions at least twice a year in Moscow and Baku.

Russia Presses for Ratification of Baykonur Agreement

LD2804175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] In the near term Russia should ratify the agreement on the leasing of the Baykonur cosmodrome signed with Kazakhstan. Early May the Russian Space Agency (RSA) and the Russian Foreign Ministry intend to prepare all the necessary documents related to the agreement on the leasing of the cosmodrome so that Russian President Boris Yeltsin would present them to the State Duma for consideration. A top-ranking employee of the RSA reported to Interfax that the text of Yeltsin's letter which explains the need to ratify the agreement as soon as possible should be prepared by Friday.

The RSA representative underlined that "the presidents' signatures dated March 28 are not enough to hand over the cosmodrome for lease." "The sum totalling 115 million dollars (for the lease) is a large amount money and the decision on its allocation should be included into the budget of the Russian Federation," stressed he. "If this does not take place Russia will remain without Baykonur," he said.

Polish Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD2804201194 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski has arrived in Moscow on a 24-hour private visit. His program includes an unofficial meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

This will be the second unofficial meeting between the two ministers. Their previous meeting took place in Krakow in February during the conference called Poland-Russia—On the Path to a New Partnership.

Tajik Foreign Ministry Accused of Misstatements

MK2804112094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Oleg Panfilov under the "Tajikistan" rubric: "Republic's Foreign Ministry Knows More than Anyone Else: Its Reports Are More Reminiscent of Intelligence Data"]

[Text] The Tajikistan Foreign Ministry's information department distributed a number of sensational pieces of news on 25 April. INTERFAX's correspondent reported from Dushanbe citing department chief Zafar Saidov that according to the Foreign Ministry (!), "in March-April of this year a redeployment of armed groupings belonging to the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement has been reported on Afghan territory in the provinces of Qonduz and Tahar." The Foreign Ministry also learned that the opposition units have been supplied with food and transport by General Abdol Basir Haled, commander of the 29th Infantry Division of the Afghan Defense Ministry, and that in the Tajik province of Badakhshan an opposition armed grouping of up to 1500 hit-men has been massed under Khadzhi Abdulrashid Badakhshi, a confectioner (!). The same Zafar Saidov unveiled the opposition's plans, telling journalists that "the hit-men are going to reach the territory of the Gornyy Badakhshan autonomous oblast and to approach the area of the Khaburabad pass to carry out military operations against Tajikistan Government forces."

INTERFAX's anonymous military source confirmed that a breakthrough across the border was planned in the Ishkashim district of Gornyy Badakhshan. At the command staff of the Russian Border Troops in Tajikistan it was confirmed that on 23 April guards clashed with three border violators, who were killed in the ensuing skirmish, in the 2d border post's zone of action in the Ishkashim district border. On 24 April, another two intruders were shot dead in the same zone. In the same breath, the INTERFAX report speaks about an active discussion of the new draft Constitution, although the text was published only 22 April.

Apart from military information, reports about candidates for president should also be expected from Tajikistan. Now it is known at least that the election campaign has already started among the population: Names mentioned most commonly include Supreme Soviet Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov; his first deputy, Abdumadzhid Dostiyev; Abdumalik Abdulladzhanov, former prime minister and current ambassador to Russia; and also Major General Yakub Salimov, internal affairs minister.

There are a number of inconsistencies in the latest reports of the Foreign Ministry information department. First, Makhmadsakhi Azizkhonov, chairman of the Ishkashim district, does not know anything about the armed clash; Badakhshan administration officials deny it, too. In reality, a resident of the Ishkashim district told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that on 23 April local residents held a rally outside the building of the district executive committee to protest bread shortages. Earlier they also complained about the catastrophic situation with food supplies by sending to Khorog a telegram, the text of which was published in the local ZINDAGI newspaper.

Second, the Tajik Foreign Ministry information department did not know anything about a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publication on Saturday (23 April) that gives—presumably citing military intelligence sources—an absolutely different account of the strength of opposition hit-men and a different name of the armed group's commander. Third, the diplomatic ministry has put itself in a fairly awkward position by divulging unique information and showing that it is perfectly familiar not only with the situation in military circles, but also with detailed plans of the opposition. If this is really so, it turns out that the Foreign Ministry is engaged in intelligence and counterintelligence operations, thus assisting the Tajikistan Security Ministry and the Russian Main Intelligence Administration.

During the talks between a government delegation and the opposition that were held in the first half of April in Moscow an oral agreement was reached that both sides should refrain from disseminating propaganda. Apparently, the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry information department has not acceded to the accord.

Irish Foreign Minister Outlines Talks Agenda

LD2804220694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1616 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—"I would describe the current state of Russian-Irish relations as excellent," said Irish Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs Dick Spring, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Spring is in Moscow on an official visit.

"I expect to see progress in two directions as a result of the present visit: on the political front and in the economy," Spring stressed. "For the first, a broad range of international problems—among them, reform of the UN, disarmament, nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and the latest events in Russia and the region—are to be discussed at tomorrow's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. On many of these issues, our positions are very close and we hope to strengthen the mutual understanding we have achieved and to map out prospects for future work."

One important practical result of the visit should be the conclusion of a bilateral agreement on avoiding double taxation. "Today, I had meetings with representatives of Irish business circles in Moscow," Spring said, "and all of them drew my attention to the importance of adopting a document of this kind.

"Generally speaking, we are very proud of the successes of Irish business in your country," Spring emphasized, "and are doing everything we can through diplomatic channels to assist it." Muscovites are well aware of Irish company Aer Rianta's joint ventures—the Irish House on Arbat Street and the Duty Free shops at Sheremetyevo II and in a number of the capital's hotels. Other Irish companies are following Aer Rianta's lead. I note the expansion of the Garden Ring supermarket chain in Moscow.

Ireland is also involved in projects to develop Russian management and rebuild the food sector, the municipal economy, and the services sector, including those being implemented within the European Union's programs. "But the main thing is that Irish businessmen are optimistic and are ready to expand their activities in Russia. I share their optimism," the deputy prime minister concluded.

Karasin on Postponement of Finnish Minister's Visit

LD2804154194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—The visit to Russia by Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto planned for 30 April is being postponed, Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated at a briefing today.

He noted that Haavisto's visit had been postponed at the request of the Russian side and the request was properly agreed with the leadership of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "This postponement is purely technical and has no political overtones. It is simply a matter of foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev's 'timetable'," Karasin said.

Country Urged To Avoid Anti-, Pro-Americanism

MK2704102094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 17, 24 Apr-1 May 94 (Signed to press 26 Apr) p A5

[Commentary by Aleksey Pushkov, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI deputy editor in chief, under the "In the World" rubric: "The Arrogance of Strength and the Presumption of Weakness"]

[Text] A tide of anti-Americanism is swelling in Russia. According to a long Russian tradition, the sobering with regard to the United States is beginning to boil over. Now it is not only Zhirinovskiy's supporters, but those who have fairly recently been moderate intellectuals that accuse the United States of planning to "exterminate the friendly Serb people" and of harboring intentions to impose a new "Pax Americana," and urge Russia to fence off NATO so as to counter the bloc with "an independent center of strength" in the form of the CIS.

These sentiments have not seriously affected Russia's official policies so far. Moscow's recent departure from its initial stance of unquestionably following in Washington's steps rather reflects its desire to balance relations with the United States. Still, it was not without heeding these sentiments that Moscow recently put off indefinitely its accession to the "Partnership for Peace" program, and it reminds the Americans on every occasion that "Russia is a great power;" and Andrey Kozyrev keeps talking, insistently so, about Russian plans "aggressively to defend its interests," thus awakening reminiscences in the West about Cold War terminology.

Of course, Russia currently lacks either the strength, capabilities, or even the desire to set itself against America. The goings-on, however, are fairly dangerous. Under certain conditions, Russia's desperate—but still unsuccessful—search for its role on the world scene instead of the one it has lost may result in the return to a fairly familiar, nearly genetic anti-Americanism. In this case it will be more show than real, more posturing than policy, but even this posture can do great damage to Russian interests.

All the more so because a counter-tide is mounting in the United States itself. It has not given rise to anti-Russian actions yet, but the shagreen leather of restraint is shrinking fast. Passages about "Russia's neoimperial ambitions" have already become a commonplace in the statements of U.S. high-ranking officials. The fact that the United States is providing Russia with moderate financial assistance gives the Americans additional reasons constantly to remind it that as of today the United States is the sole superpower in the world. And also to give Moscow instructions as to what deals it may conclude with India or Iran, how it should behave itself in the Middle East or in its disputes with the Baltic states.

"There should be no anti-Americanism, but neither should there be pan-Americanism," believes a high-ranking official of the Yeltsin administration, who appears to be expressing the general viewpoint of our government bureaucracy. This is an understandable wish, albeit one that can scarcely be fulfilled completely: Any powerful system—and the United States is precisely one—seeks to become a monopoly. Still, this should not give rise to yet another surge of anti-Americanism, but serve as a reason to work out a counterpolicy that would make it possible to maintain constructive relations with the United States and at the same time enable Russia to defend its legitimate interests.

This symbiosis is realistic for two reasons: First, the United States— as shown by its failures in Somalia and Haiti, not too strong positions in trade wars with Japan, and continuous overtures to China despite Beijing's human rights violations of all possible sorts—is far from omnipotent. Second, it needs Russia for objective reasons—insofar as it uses, not rejects, Russia's remaining possibilities to influence international processes.

The evolution of the situation around Bosnia is a case in point. If President Clinton were certain that the strategy of bomb strikes is bound to succeed, he would not have called Boris Yeltsin on the phone last week, nor would Warren Christopher have met with Andrey Kozyrev in Geneva. The course events took after Russia's diplomatic defeat in Gorazde only emphasized that it is still one of the key players on the Balkan scene against which both the United States and NATO prefer to measure their actions.

The West needs Russia to an even greater degree to control the course of events on the territory of the former USSR. Although in the United States scenarios of playing "the Ukrainian card" are being contemplated with a determination worthy of a better purpose, in reality the United States is unable actually to oppose Russia in that space.

Anti-Americanism is flawed at least because it attributes to the United States the possibilities it does not have. Moreover, there is no better way of giving a strong boost to anti-Americanism than to project the image of a Russia hostile to the United States and the West. On the contrary, it should act accurately and carefully as it takes part in numerous international games—from the Bosnian one to the partnership with NATO—and prudently use its influence on a case-by-case basis either on the American side or in favor of emerging alternatives.

Neither pro-Americanism, which is fraught with its unbridled antithesis in Russia, nor anti-Americanism, which is rolling our country back to what is has left behind with such difficulties are acceptable for it. Russia should stop measuring itself against this leading, but not omnipotent pole of world politics. Only by so doing will it be able to overcome its historical inferiority complex with regard to the United States, to come to the balanced realization of its national interests, and to help diffuse the American influence if and when it runs counter to its needs.

U.S. Adherence to 'Ideologized Precepts' Criticized

PM2804145794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "Duma Deputies Assess Lessons of Gorazde on the Spot"]

[Text] The crisis in Bosnia abated slightly after the Bosnian Serbs had fulfilled the UN and NATO ultimatum, and withdrawn their heavy armaments from the 20-km "safe area" around Gorazde.

Two soldiers from the Russian "blue helmets" battalion had been taken as hostages, but they were released the next morning. The warring and interested parties are in a state of some confusion. The "lessons of Gorazde" are still being assessed, and this they are doing in the State Duma.

The flames could have been extinguished before the bomb attacks, Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, believes. Before the Bosnian Serbs were "forced to show they were not afraid" in response to the "deterrence strategy."

The latest spiral in the crisis in Bosnia, Lukin believes, demonstrated the "ineptitude" of the U.S. Administration, which is linking bombing raids in former Yugoslavia to the domestic political situation at home, the fact that the West Europeans are "easily persuaded," since they opted for a "diplomatic facade rather than political decisions," and also the "weakness and incoherence of Russian diplomacy."

The deputy paid tribute to the flexibility of the West, which had "given the Serbs a way out," and to Boris Yeltsin's timely intervention, which was carried out not through "Russian diplomats in the field," but directly, although "within the framework of nonpublic diplomacy."

Although the departure of the president's special envoy from the trouble spot was seen as a positive contribution, Moscow's actual participation in the efforts to unravel the Balkan knot of tension was not called into question. Bosnia has demonstrated, though, that neither the West nor Russia "will be able to handle it alone."

There was criticism in the Duma of the Clinton administration, which is following ideologized precepts: The Serbs are an enemy who must be punished, but U.S. soldiers must not die and the U.S. taxpayer must not bear the extra cost. Lukin, Russian ambassador in Washington, observed: "The methods of indoctrination employed in the United States often remind me of the methods used in North Korea."

The head of the parliamentary committee suggested that Russian shuttle diplomacy should not be so closely linked to the "personal factor," so that "people like me do not begin to suspect that ambition plays too great a part in it." "Personal resentment and disappointment" must not be allowed to come into it, a diplomat must not lose his cool," Vladimir Lukin said, although he did not once mention the name of Vitaliy Churkin. You might say the gist of the speech was that you have to "play as a team."

The Duma delegation, made up on a factional basis, which toured the republics of former Yugoslavia, showed how to play as a team.

In a statement for ITAR-TASS in Belgrade, Duma Deputy Konstantin Zatulin expressed regret that "mature diplomats preferred vexation to patience," by echoing the "rhetoric on the benefit of ultimatums." Delegation head Nikolay Bezborodov expressed his colleagues' view that the Duma must raise the question of lifting sanctions against the Serb Republic of Yugoslavia and pass it to the United Nations for a final decision.

It is believed that, before ending up on the president's desk, the Duma's recommendations will absorb two traditional elements from the diplomatic arsenal—"pressure and encouragement"; the latter will incorporate a proposal on a stage-by-stage lifting of sanctions.

Head of Duma Delegation on Visit to Former Yugoslavia

LD2804175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1635 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Abrosimov]

[Text] Sofia April 28 TASS—"We had meetings with representatives of all sides involved in the Bosnian conflict and, judging by their stands, now it is difficult to expect any definite solution to the dramatic situation", Deputy Chairman of the Duma's Defence Committee, Head of the Russian State Duma delegation Nikolay Bezborodov told in an interview with ITAR-TASS. The delegation made a brief stopover in the Bulgarian capital on its way from Belgrade to Moscow.

According to Bezborodov, "a way out" might be found at a summit meeting between representatives of the international community, the possibility of which is now being discussed. However, such a meeting must not be reduced to "dictate from the position of force", he said.

Commenting on mass media reports on manifistations of "great Serbian chauvinism", Bezborodov said that such reports are often of a propagandist character. "We have seen no such manifistations", he said. On the contrary, we can speak of biased coverage of the situation in former Yugoslavia, when all the blame is put on one side only, the lawmaker stressed. Other deputies also share this point of view saying it is necessary to assess the situation in former Yugoslavia on the basis of a just and objective approach.

The Russian lawmakers believe that now another problem is becoming more acute, i.e. lifting of U.N. sanctions against the Republic of Yugoslavia which affect not only Yugoslavia but other Balkan countries as well.

Greenpeace Cited on Nuclear Fuel Deal With Finland

MK2704093094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 14

[Report by Mikhail Lashch: "New 'Greenpeace' Action. Finnish Police Break Up Antinuclear Action"]

[Excerpts] The international ecological organization "Greenpeace" held a protest action yesterday in the Finnish town of Loviza (110 km from Helsinki) in connection with the impending transporting to Russia of nuclear waste. The same day the Moscow branch of "Greenpeace" circulated a statement on the illegal nature of transporting nuclear waste from Finland to Russia. [passage omitted]

Talking to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent, Dmitriy Tolmatskiy of the Moscow branch of "Greenpeace" clarified some of the questions on bringing nuclear fuel to Russia. "The agreement on cooperation in the area of nuclear power engineering of 14 May 1965 between Russia and Finland contains not one word to the effect that the radioactive waste of processed fuel is supposed to be buried in Russia. The thing is that nuclear fuel becomes totally Finland's property the moment it crosses the border, and Russia bears no responsibility whatever for it. More, commitments on the return of fuel are not stipulated in the agreement." Mr. Tolmatskiy also underlined that literally every page in the agreement says that nuclear materials may only be used for peaceful means whereas the "Mayak" combine (the biggest nuclear waste processing enterprise) is a military facility, which, up to now, has been producing weapons-grade plutonium from used nuclear fuel.

Karasin Censures Attempts To Hinder Change in RSA

LD2804174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoi and others]

[Text] Russia "resolutely condemns the senseless subversive activity of those, who seek to cast shadow on the elections to the first non-racial parliament in South Africa," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Grigory Karasin, at Thursday's [28 April] briefing in Moscow.

As he said, the reports arriving from South Africa "make it possible to hope that the elections to be concluded on Thursday will be a success." However the forces, which tried in vain to derail the negotiating process, are still resorting to sabotage," Karasin said.

The recent terrorist act—bomb explosion in Johannesburg's airport—injured 16 people, including two Russian diplomats.

"We believe that such actions will not break the will of the majority of South Africans, who voted for a democratic future and for a prosperous South Africa," the spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry concluded.

Political Issues

'Text' of Treaty on Social Accord

LD2904104094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1604 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS; "Treaty on Social Accord"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—We transmit the text, distributed by the press service of the Russian president, of the Treaty on Social Accord, the signing of which took place today in the Kremlin:

Today, Russia needs social accord as never before. The tasks facing society are too complex and too difficult for its resources to be dissipated in political antagonism. Dialogue, the search for points of contact and common ground, and reasonable compromises must be the basic standard in public and political life.

It is our common aim to make the Russian Federation a flourishing state, enjoying a high level of authority in the international arena, a state inhabited by free people, proud of their history and looking toward the future with confidence. This aim can be achieved only through a social accord that grows out of respect for the dignity of the human being, for different political convictions, and for national, cultural, and religious traditions.

For the sake of social accord, the president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, the components of the Russian Federation, the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation, political parties, trade unions, other public associations, and religious associations (henceforth referred to as the parties to the treaty), acting in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, placing common interests higher than group, party, departmental, and religious interests, ruling out the possibility that the problems arising in society can be resolved through violence, whatever forms it takes, conclude the present treaty.

I. Attaining Political Stability in Society

1. The parties to the treaty pledge to abide strictly, in their activities, by the primacy of human rights and freedoms, respect for the rights of peoples, the principles of democracy, the law-governed state, the division of powers, and federalism.

The parties to the treaty proceed from the view that the political life of society must develop within the framework of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

The parties to the treaty consider that the only amendments that should be made to the Constitution are those that will be conducive to stabilizing the situation in society. To this end, the parties to the treaty will make use of conciliation procedures when drawing up proposals. The parties to the treaty consider the main areas for amending the Constitution to be: strengthening human rights guarantees, improving the system for the division of powers, local self-government, and the development of federalism.

The parties to the treaty undertake not to initiate political campaigns in favor of holding early elections, not envisaged by the Constitution, to the federal organs of power.

2. The Federation Council and the State Duma undertake to pass, in the near future, legislation on elections, laws on the referendum, parties, citizens' right of association, and laws laying down the procedure for staging rallies, processions, and demonstrations.

3. The parties to the treaty pledge to take all necessary measures to ensure stability within the country, without which it is impossible to emerge from the economic crisis.

The organizers of rallies and demonstrations and local organs of power and law-and-order bodies accept moral and political, as well as legal, responsibility for ensuring that these actions are peaceful in nature and that they are conducted in strict accordance with current legislation.

4. The parties to the treaty consider that the president of the Russian Federation and the leaders of federal state bodies must maintain a constant dialogue with society, political parties, movements, and other public associations.

5. The parties to the treaty consider that the grandeur of Russian history, with its heroic and tragic pages, obliges one to avoid simplified or insulting appraisals of the past and to prevent the distortion of historical fact.

6. The parties to the treaty pledge to do their utmost to promote the strengthening of Russia's international authority and defense capability, and the conducting of a unified foreign policy for the country.

II. Surmounting the Socioeconomic Crisis

1. In order to stabilize the socioeconomic situation, the Government of the Russian Federation pledges in 1994, on the basis of the legislation of the Russian Federation and within the bounds of its powers, to accomplish the following priority tasks:

- To bring the level of inflation down and to control it;
- To seek to boost investment activity and to create the preconditions for an economic upsurge;
- To develop a blueprint for taxation that stimulates the development of production;
- To create conditions for owners to exercise their rights and for the formation of a competitive environment;
- To extend the structural reorganization of the economy, which means surmounting the structural deformations, adapting to solvent demand with a

minimum of losses and expenses, and integrating the Russian economy into the world economy;

To create acceptable economic conditions for the functioning of the agroindustrial complex, and to carry out reforms in the countryside, mainly through economic methods, excluding administrative measures as much as possible;

To adopt measures to end the budget debt as regards the payment of wages;

To pursue an active social policy aimed at stabilizing and subsequently raising standards of living, adapting the working population to new conditions, targeting and protecting its most vulnerable strata against the negative manifestations of transitional processes, reducing the level of differentiation in people's incomes, and implementing the principles of social partnership;

To draw up a federal program to promote employment, as well as other social programs, and to organize their implementation.

2. The president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, and the Government of the Russian Federation pledge to stimulate the processes of integration within the CIS and to strengthen Russia's position in the world market.

3. The Federation Council and the State Duma pledge, on the basis of a plan for law-drafting activity, agreed with the president of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation, to pass laws intended to ensure that the socioeconomic crisis is surmounted, including a constitutional law on the government, a law on the budget for 1994, a civil code, a land code, a code of labor laws, a law on free economic zones, laws on banking and the organization of an efficient payments system, laws aimed at improving the tax system, and laws on the securities market and the minimum wage.

4. For the time during which the measures to stabilize the economy are being carried out:

- The trade unions and associations of them pledge not to conduct, and not to help organize, any strikes for the purpose of bringing about a redistribution of budget finance or the allocation of subsidies and benefits regarding state credits or taxation to individual industries or territories for other purposes, having no direct connection with the issues of pay, working conditions and job protection;
- State economic bodies and associations of manufacturers and entrepreneurs pledge to refrain from unjustified stoppages of production, not to breach commitments made to staff, suppliers, and purchasers, the budget and banks, and to take part in the conclusion of collective contracts and agreements;
- The organs of state power and the associations of manufacturers and entrepreneurs pledge to use conciliation procedures to settle labor disputes, to provide the trade unions with adequate information about the state of relevant budgets and the position of enterprises, and to give the unions the organizational opportunity to pursue their legitimate activities.

5. The parties to the treaty attach great importance to the implementation of the agreements concluded between the trade unions, employers, and the Government of the Russian Federation, including the General Agreement for 1994.

III. Consolidating the Federal Structure

1. The president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, and the Government and the components of the Russian Federation pledge to adopt measures to:

- Strengthen the unity of the Russian Federation's economic, political, and legal space;
- Organize and support a unified labor market through rigorous observance of labor legislation and of international treaties and conventions concluded by the Russian Federation;
- Coordinate the activities of the organs of power of the components of the federation regarding the accomplishment of tasks that are beyond the scope of individual regions, and harmonize the actions of federal organs of power and the organs of power of the components of the federation regarding the accomplishment of national tasks;
- Compensate the regions if the federal organs of power, within the limits of their jurisdiction, make decisions that lead to a diminution of the revenue or an increase in the expenditure of the regional budgets.

2. The Federation Council and the State Duma pledge, within the current year, to pass federal laws:

- On a more detailed delimitation of the objects of jurisdiction and powers between the Russian Federation and its components;
- On general principles for organizing the representative and executive power of the components of the federation.

3. The parties to the treaty stress that it is only possible for the components of the federation to exercise their rights if the state integrity of Russia and its political, economic, and legal unity is ensured.

4. The parties to the treaty acknowledge the need to extend the economic independence of the components of the federation by strengthening the tax base of their budgets and by bodies in dealing with matters of local importance; support for local self-government by an independent tax base and by the right to fix norms for payments to its own budget, given guarantees of a budgetary minimum from the state; and the right of local self-government bodies to take part in tackling pan-regional and pan-Russian problems.

IV. Ethnic Relations

1. The parties to the treaty undertake to:

- Support the equal rights of all peoples to their ethnic development;
- support ethnic cultures and languages;
- Support ethnic associations, unions, societies, and other ethnic and cultural groups;
- Provide for the development of a multiethnic Russian society in which there is dialogue, peaceful settlement of conflicts, where no territorial claims are made within the state, and where force is not used to settle disputes, except where this becomes a necessary measure by the state following a violation of human rights;
- Set up the mechanisms needed to implement the law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

2. The parties to the treaty are called upon to observe strictly the principle that the base of power throughout the Russian Federation is its multiethnic people. No single ethnic group has an exclusive right to control territory, the institutions of power, or resources.

3. The parties to the treaty stress the need to protect the interests of small peoples. The implementation of socioeconomic changes in areas where they have traditionally resided should be accompanied by a range of measures to preserve the cultural, historical, and natural environment of these peoples.

4. The parties to the treaty deem it necessary to heighten state and public monitoring of the observance of human rights in the sphere of ethnic relations and to prevent and curb any manifestations of discrimination along ethnic, racial, and religious lines.

5. The state authorities recognize their obligation actively to protect the rights and interests of Russians living in other states, to accept and accommodate Russians who are compelled to resettle in Russia, providing them with comprehensive support.

V. The Safety of the Citizen and Society

1. The parties to the treaty regard ensuring the personal safety of citizens and the fight against organized crime and corruption as a task of the utmost importance.

The Federation Council and the State Duma pledge during the current year to create the necessary legislation, including that required to strengthen the law enforcement bodies.

2. The parties to the treaty, in line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, oppose the creation by political parties, movements, and public associations of any armed and paramilitary formations, and favor their immediate disbandment should such formations exist.

3. The participants in the treaty consider attempts to draw the power structures of the state into supporting political programs and demands to be unlawful and immoral.

4. The participants in the treaty consider an urgent task the working out of specific measures in the following areas:

- Strengthening and raising the efficiency of the work of the state's power structures in accordance with the real demands for ensuring the security of the citizen and the state;
- Providing legal and material back-up for the work of the state's power structures and establishing civil control over them, including the reform of legal proceedings in the military, shaping cadre policy, and ensuring the openness of budget expenditure in accordance with international norms;
- Ensuring rigid control over the movement of freight and individuals across borders with the purpose of eliminating the illegal export of material and cultural treasures, and the import of weapons, drugs, and ecologically dangerous cargoes;
- Creating the necessary material conditions and stepping up the responsibility of the law protection bodies for ensuring legality and law and order;
- Improving the environment in ecologically unfavorable areas.

5. In order to formulate an agreed state policy in the sphere of security the parties to the treaty consider it advisable that the chairmen of the Federation Council and the State Duma should participate in the work of the Russian Federation Security Council and that the chairmen of the corresponding committees of Federal Assembly chambers should be recruited to work in interdepartmental commissions of the Federation Council.

6. The bodies of state power provide for the possibility of participation by the political parties, movements, and public associations in working out a conception of national security.

VI. Morality, Science, Education, and Culture

1. The parties to the treaty stress that love for the Fatherland and freedom, moral duty to society, creative labor, all the values common to the whole of mankind, and the spiritual and moral traditions of the multinational people of the Russian Federation should become the basis for its revival. The parties to the treaty pledge to uphold, in word and deed, the norms of moral behavior in politics, the economy, and public life. A special role in this belongs to the mass media, education, science, and culture institutions, and to religious organizations, the efforts of which should be supported by the state and society.

2. Parties to the treaty pledge to conduct an agreed policy in the field of the moral, spiritual, cultural, patriotic, and aesthetic education of children and young people. To

seek out the possibilities for stimulating the creativity of children and young people, physical education and sport, for organizing the leisure activities for children and teenagers, for which the relevant actions of public associations and other organizations should be encouraged.

3. Bodies of state power in subjects of the federation pledge to assist in preserving the system of free, complete secondary, secondary specialized, and vocational and technical education, as well as not to permit the existing level of financing for higher education to be reduced;

To encourage the creation of nonstate higher education establishments to train specialists for vitally important spheres of the economy, public life, science, culture, and education.

4. The treaty signatories will take all necessary measures to overcome the crisis in science in our country. Scientific potential accumulated is the property of Russian society.

Federal bodies of power pledge that they will seek funds to finance scientific and cultural establishments to a sufficient level.

5. The Federation Council and State Duma undertake to adopt laws which will secure tax and other privileges for scientific, cultural, educational, and public health establishments and organizations for veterans and the disabled, as well as a law on charity work and charitable organizations.

6. Treaty signatories undertake to assist in the creation of a nationwide fund to support Russian talent, whose activities will be financed by state forces and public, commercial, and other structures.

7. Federal power bodies undertake to draw up an all-Russian program to secure cultural and other links with ethnic Russians living abroad and their public associations.

VII. On the Implementation of the Present Treaty

The president of the Russian Federation will hold regular meetings with representatives of organizations and establishments which have signed the treaty to discuss the most important issues connected with implementing the present treaty.

A conciliation commission is being set up to carry out coordination work on a permanent basis. The commission consists of plenipotentiary representatitves of the presient of the Russian Federation, the government, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation, the political parties, the trade unions, other public associations, and the Cossacks.

The conciliation commission organizes the work of conferences, round tables, and temporary working groups made up of representatives of the parties to the treaty, and prepares questions for meetings with the president of the Russian Federation.

Appendices and protocols will be drawn up to develop the treaty; they will make its individul provisions more specific and will be an integral part of the treaty after they have been signed by the parties to the treaty.

The parties to the treaty stress that this treaty must be implemented strictly on the basis of the existing Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation.

VIII. The Responsibility of the Parties that have Signed the Present Treaty

The parties that have signed the present treaty acknowledge their great responsibility to society for fulfilling the commitments which they have undertaken.

The conciliation commission monitors the observation of the provisions set out in this treaty.

Full information is to be made available so that the mass media can cover the implementation of the treaty by its signatories.

IX. The Procedure for Signing the Treaty

The treaty is being signed by the president of the Russian Federation, the chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly, the chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly, the chairman of the government, heads of republics, heads of administrations, leaders of representative bodies of power in the component parts of the Russian Federation or their plenipotentiary representatives, and by leaders of groupings, political parties, and public associations represented in the State Duma, trade unions and their associations, religious associations, the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation, leaders of the Russian Academy of Science, and leaders of the Cossacks, after which the treaty is open for signing by others.

X. The Duration of the Treaty and Conditions Under Which Others Can Join It

This treaty is being concluded for a period of two years and can be extended with the consent of the signatories.

The treaty is open for signing by representatives of public associations throughout the period of its validity.

XI. Final Provisions

The parties to the treaty are unanimous that the establishment of social accord in Russia is a process in which all forces in society which adhere to the principles of this treaty are invited to take an active part.

The parties to the treaty appeal to all constructive forces of the Russian Federation to support this treaty and assist in its implementation. The parties to the treaty express confidence that, in two years, problems can be overcome, the country can be brought out of economic crisis, the life of Russians can be improved, and the prerequisites for a growth in prosperity can be created.

This treaty was opened for signing on 28 April 1994.

Kostikov Comments

PM2904094394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Accord Treaty Is Open Book": "Political Passions Should Be Brought Under Control"]

[Text] "The document on civil accord is not an argument against any protest actions or events, it is a vital necessity," Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian Federation president's press secretary, stated. "Events show what an excited state Russia's political circles are in at present. The Civil Accord Treaty [Dogovor o Grazhdanskom Soglasii] will help to bring political passions in our country under control."

The situation which developed in the State Duma 27 April in connection with the murder of a deputy, and the nervousness and political hullabaloo which reigned in the Duma, is further evidence of how much civil accord is essential to us all, he emphasized.

Rybkin Address at Signing Ceremony

LD2804131394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1032 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Speech by Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, at the ceremony of signing the Treaty on Social Accord in the St. George's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin—live]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin], Your Holiness [Aleksiy II], esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, comrades. As chairman of the fifth State Duma in Russia's history, I express—I do not hide—my profound satisfaction at the signing of this treaty. Ever since it started its work the Duma has actively and consistently advocated the achievement of civic peace and accord in our society, regarding it as fundamentally important and extremely necessary. Though not going the full way, perhaps, to meeting our needs, it is indispensable in overcoming the crisis and bringing about the genuine revival of Russia.

When the State Duma adopted the memorandum on accord on 23 February this year, a new stage, basically, was initiated in the relationship between the authorities and public organizations in our country. It created the prerequisites for ending the state of political sectarianism, which is unnatural in a parliamentary democracy, for ending the division of society into reds and whites, into them and us, into radicals and conservatives. Our society can see for itself that confrontation offers nothing, that confrontation and violence create far more problems than they resolve. People are tired of empty promises. But they are even more weary of intrigue, ambition, and uncertainty about the present and especially the future.

While welcoming the signing of the treaty, I cannot fail to stress that this is not a panacea for all our problems, but the extent of the treaty's force is strictly limited by the law and social practice. Perhaps this is where its moral and ethical aspect, authority, lies. Our age-old tradition of solving problems all together [vsem mirom] is being revived. There are differing attitudes in contemporary Russian society to the present treaty. But it is in the interests of accord not to dramatize the situation. Let us be wise and patient. Different assessments reflect profound social differences and disagreements which cannot be overcome at one go. We are dutybound to listen to different views and positions, to heed the anguish and alarm which they reflect, while specific objectives in ending the crisis and seeking realistic mechanisms for settling real contradictions are worked out.

One other thing is obvious. No matter how the programs of those taking part in the treaty may differ, they are close to each other in that they agree on the main thing. Society must be relieved of the burden of social tension. Normal relations between the branches of power must develop on the basis of unconditional observance of law and order. After all, separation of the powers certainly does not mean alienation from each other, let alone confrontation. Our routes must meet at a crossroads. The country's statehood must be transformed into something which benefits Russia and its citizens. The economic reforms must be deepened in the interests of the entire people rather than those of some small select group of people. The democratic thrust of foreign policy must be safeguarded, while ensuring that the national distinctiveness and geopolitical interests of Russia are rigorously observed.

We all need these things very much, and it is important to think on the fact that the time has come not to hack as we used to do before, but to patiently and knowingly untie the Gordian knots into which Russian problems have become knotted. Of course, the path toward the accord is thorny and long. Today we are merely taking the first step on this path. Our ancient ancestors used to say: He who has begun something has already half done it. I subscribe to what Boris Nikolayevich said. The main thing is to win the struggle within ourselves, and then at a certain stage we can recall the words of the unforgettable Konstantin Simonov, who said some time ago: Yes, we did not gain the victory easily. Yes, our enemy—our internal enemy—was strong. The greater is our glory. Thank you.

Leaders Comment on Accord

LD2804153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—The civic accord signed at the Kremlin today is reviving the ancient Russian tradition to resolve arising problems together.

Now Russia is facing a new task: to broaden the framework of this memorandum, make it a pact not only between authorities and political forces but also an agreement among all citizens of the country. This was said today by participants of the ceremony of signing the accord at St. George's hall at the Kremlin.

Those chapters of the document in which the parties pledge to strengthen the federal system and national relations, are giving the hope for the soonest and peaceful settlement of inter-ethnic conflicts.

"The accord is opening the way to peace in Caucasus," President of Ingushetia Ruslan Aushev told ITAR-TASS in an interview. He expressed the wish that the conciliatory commission which would control the implementation of the terms of the accord, should pay close attention to the "working out of a mechanism for its enforcement so that this document would not repeat the sad fate of many earlier concluded agreements". President of North Ossetia Aksarbek Galazov shares Ruslan Aushev's standpoint.

President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiyev expressed a specific attitude to the signed accord: He will insist on additions to the document concerning Tatarstan.

President of Ingushetia is counting on concluding a bilateral treaty with Russia.

It is noteworthy that even those several political leaders who did not sign the accord—leader of the communist Party of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Zyuganov, and chairmen of representative bodies of power in the Kemerovo and Vladimir Regions, Tuleyev and Vinogradov, were present at the ceremony not wishing to be considered opponents of the accord.

"Our party has made a decision to continue a dialogue no matter what the situation is because civil war is not our choice. We are participating in all processes which lead to reconciliation, and are prepared to cover our part of the road for reaching this all- national purpose," Gennadiy Zyuganov told ITAR-TASS.

Participants in the ceremony of signing the document were unanimous to think that the signed accord is not a tribute to the momentary political situation but a prologue to the revival of a strong great power.

Three Fail To Sign Treaty

PM2904080994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Report on Results of Signing of Treaty on Social Accord 28 April 1994"]

[Text] The Treaty on Social Accord was signed by 245 of the 248 participants in the Assembly.

The following did not sign the Treaty:

N.Ye. Vinogradov—chairman of Vladimir Oblast Legislative Assembly;

A.M. Tuleyev—chairman of Kemerovo Oblast Legislative Assembly;

G.A. Zyuganov—chairman of the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" faction.

The following signed the Treaty with reservations:

M.Sh. Shaymiyev—president of the Republic of Tatarstan;

A.Kh. Galazov—president of the Republic of North Ossetia;

Yu.G. Biragov—chairman of the Republic of North Ossetia Supreme Soviet;

F.Kh. Mukhametshin—chairman of the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet;

V.Ye. Veshnyakov—chairman of Chita Oblast Duma;

N.M. Semenenko—chairman of the Medical Workers Trade Union;

M.A. Voroshilov—cochairman of the Russian Metal Workers Trade Union;

V.V. Shulga—cochairman of the Russian Trade Union of Drivers and Urban Transport Personnel.

The republic leaders' reservations generally relate to the Treaty's taking into consideration agreements concluded previously as well as official amendments to the draft Treaty submitted previously (Republic of Tatarstan). The leadership of North Ossetia objects to the inclusion in the Treaty of a clause regarding the creation of mechanisms to implement the Law on the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples.

The trade union leaders' reservations mainly boil down to objections at the inclusion in the text of the Treaty of a reference to the General Agreement for 1994.

Deputies Comment on Signing

LD2804163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In his interview with journalists in the Kremlin leader of the communist party faction Gennadiy Zyuganov, who has not signed the Agreement, declared that his presence at the ceremony explains that he, in principle, supports the idea of accord. He stressed that his faction in the State Duma is ready to participate in the dialogue with those forces which would sign the Agreement. Responding to Interfax, Zyuganov reported about his intention to participate in the activity of "round tables" and working groups on concrete problems, that is, in the work of those mechanisms which have been mentioned in the Agreement on Civic Accord.

According to Vladimir Lukin, one of the leaders of the Yabloko faction, "a bad peace is better than a good quarrel," however, one should not sign this document because such a non-democratic figure as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who heads a non-democratic organization, would participate in its signing. "Today he signs it and tomorrow he will piss on his signature," Lukin declared.

Amangeldy Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo regional council, explained his refusal to sign the Agreement by his non-confidence in the people who have initiated it, in particular, in the government which, to quote Tuleyev, "has been bogged down in corruption." "I believe that I would have accomplished a disgraceful deed if I had signed this document," Tuleyev said.

During conversation with journalists the presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov called the Agreement's signing "the beginning of a mighty process of public reconciliation." "Now the politicians are to implement everything what have been done by representatives of the forces which are present here," he said.

Kostikov underlined: "The process is open and everybody who wishes, who is mature enough, can sign it today, tomorrow, or in half a year."

Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord, declared that one should solve all problems at the negotiations table but not on barricades. Secondly, it is necessary that concrete protocols and decisions on concrete problems, primarily in the sphere of economy, social protection, and crime fighting, should follow this document.

Ingush President Ruslan Aushev called the articles on the need to create mechanisms aimed at the implementation of the decree on rehabilitation of repressed people is the most important one in this Agreement.

For his part, leader of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov believes that the need to search for an efficient mechanisms to achieve all- republican accord but not this concrete article is the most important part of this document.

Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev indicated that the republic would join the Agreement on several provisions. In particular, he said about Tatarstan's proposal to change the name of the document and to entitle it Declaration on Civic Accord. Shaymiyev expressed satisfaction with the fact that the working group in charge for the preparation of this document had taken into consideration Tatarstan's remark and removed the provision stipulating that the republics' constitutions should be brought in line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Leader of the Russia's Choice faction Yegor Gaydar believes that signing of the Agreement represents a move in the right direction, it has given a new impetus to the stabilization of the political situation in Russia. "I have never had any illusions that is it possible to solve serious problems of the Russian life with the help of even a very important document, but now, at last, there has appeared a base with the help of which we can try to transfer the programmed confrontation from a non-civilized into a civilized one."

Shakhray Says 'No Alternative'

PM2904081994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "Hoping for Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] What is your view of this highly important document for the future of Russia and Russia's citizens? The following answer this question:

Sergey Shakhray, Russian Federation [RF] Government vice premier and leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord:

If there were no political confrontation in society, if it had traditions to ensure the automatic operation of the Constitution, and if the mechanisms of juducial power were in operation, there would have been no need to devise this document. But we have a very acute form of political confrontation, a profound socioeconomic crisis, and a lack of institutions of power, including judicial power, capable of defending civil rights and peace in society. There is therefore no alternative to the Treaty on Social Accord.

Petr Filippov, head of the RF Presidential Administration's Information Support Administration:

It would be the height of naivete to expect the Treaty to be signed by all the opposing forces. The Treaty is a text that will enable public opinion to identify those people who are in fact in favor of settling disputes by means of civil war. If there are two major political camps in the country that switch to hostilities without finding a compromise, that is a catastrophe. But Russia is not threatened by that situation today. However, if the chance of accord is missed, that will postpone and complicate the positive economic changes in the country.

Economist Pavel Bunich:

A host of reservations can be made about the text of the Treaty, but they can be made throughout life, till the end. The Treaty is a fairly realistic basis for further work.

Georgiy Satarov, RF presidential aide:

Any democracy has two foundation stones. The first one being the Constitution and the laws, the second—political culture and political traditions. Permanent mechanisms for accord will train us in normal political culture. When we speak of the Treaty's tasks, we bear in mind the second foundation stone, which is based on democracy and the culture of seeking accord and compromise.

Accord Treaty Seen as 'Trap'

PM2804122594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Federation Council deputy Oleg Smolin: "Trap Is Ready"]

[Text] There is no denying that everyone in Russia has grown tired of political "talking shops." And the tanks firing on the parliament building, Russian officers firing on Russian deputies, are still before many people's eyes. Yearning for civil peace and a normal, calm life in society is undoubtedly growing. That is why April's main domestic political event was the discussion of the "treaty on social accord" proposed in the president's name.

From the formal legal viewpoint the draft clearly does not stand up to criticism. Primarily what is disputed is the proposed "signatories"—those acceding to the agreement. Of course if they want to political parties and social and religious organizations and trade unions can take part in this matter if they want.... But the state? What its role is is unclear. If the proposed agreement reiterates the Constitution then there is no need for it. There is still less need for it if it goes beyond the framework of the Constitution.

Let me be frank. I have never been a supporter of the former constitution, which was not democratic enough. Still less am I a supporter of the present, entirely authoritarian constitution. The history of all kinds of unconstitutional agreements did not begin today and should seemingly have taught us something. An imperfect law is better than any lawlessness.

If the Federation COuncil and the State Duma want to express their support for civil peace, then let them adopt the relevant appeal to the Russian peoples, political movements, religions, and organs of power, including the president himself.

The facts make us doubt how seriously the authors of the proposed agreement on accord are treating not only the Constitution but also the agreement itself. Let me remind you that article 5 of the Constitution stipulates the equality of the components of the Federation as regards the federal organs of power. The proposed draft agreement proposes a moratorium on the conclusion of bilateral treaties on the demarcation of powers between these organs and components. But what is actually happening?

At the same time a treaty is being successfully concluded between the Russian Federation and Tatarstan and the preparation of a similar treaty with Chechnya is being announced. The assessment of their expediency is a separate issue. But the talks run counter to the Constitution and the draft agreement. That is a medical fact, as they say. And will the agreement's initiators punish themselves for violating it? And now?

On the social plane the document also gives rise to doubts. Some agreement is being proposed "for everyone's attention." The need to base it only on mutual concessions is perfectly obvious. But the draft contains no real steps to meet the demands of the "dissenters." For instance, trade unions are given the duty of renouncing the organization of strikes connected with the redistribution of budget funds. It would seem that they might expect in response a promise to step up social guarantees for hired workers. Nothing of the kind! The president and government are "tossing" into the Duma a draft budget which can only be assessed as antisocial, anti-education, and anticulture. At a joint session of the State Duma and Federation Council committees studying questions of education, science, and culture, in my presence it was decided to vote against the draft budget. And how could they do otherwise?

The president is not fulfilling his own edict no. 1. The government is not fulfilling the president's edict and the Russian Federation legislation on education and culture. My conscience does not permit me to urge my colleagues who are workers in education to abandon the struggle for their legitimate demands by all legal means. The signing of the agreement for the trade unions is tantamount to political suicide!

A general political assessment should be based on the feasibility or otherwise of the practical embodiment of the idea involved. And so the country has been presented not with a declaration on the mutual accord of the political forces but with a protocol on universal agreement with the president! Instead of uniting the country is now split into two camps: those who agree with accord and those who do not. I do not rule out the possibility that after the agreement has been signed there will be a persecution of the "dissenters." "Penalties" are already envisaged for them in the document.

If the president's side is really thinking of civil peace and not of propaganda campaigns it should suggest to the opposition real countersteps: a new course in the economy, a government of national trust in politics. Otherwise the draft is a noose. The opposition should use it to tie its own hands, leaving its opponents complete freedom of maneuver.

Without a new economic course and a government of national trust a pact on civil accord in Russia is either another Utopian idea or a trap for all those who disagree with their country's destruction.

Federation Council Supports Yeltsin Policy

LD2804141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rudolf Gladkikh]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—Russia's Federation Council sent an appeal to President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday, approving his address to the Federal Assembly on strengthening the Russian state and basic guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy.

The appeal said that the council has thoroughly studied the address and "welcomes the president's will" to "continue the course of reform." It said "We consider the memorandum of civic peace and accord as an important step towards implementing the president's address."

The Federation Council supported Yeltsin's proposals to set up a joint constitutional commission and a joint working group to coordinate and increase the effectiveness of law-making in Russia.

The upper house also supported other initiatives and proposals outlined by the president in his address.

"Stressing our strong agreement with the spirit and the letter of the address, the Federation Council appeals to the president and the Government of the Russian Federation with an urgent request to ensure strict observance of the provisions and norms of the popularly-adopted Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federation treaty and Russian laws, and create favourable conditions for unswerving implementation of these provisions and norms," the appeal said.

Yeltsin Rules Out Fresh Coup Attempt

LD2904101594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0759 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—There is no danger of a fresh coup attempt in Russia. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin expressed confidence of this in an interview with the American ABC television network. There is, of course, opposition but it is weak, he said. It consists of nothing more than small groups. All state and administrative structures—the army, internal troops, the Ministry of Internal Affairs—are on the president's side. People have now changed. B. Yeltsin pointed out that he foresees no situation in which he, as president, could not control the situation in the country.

Asked whether the idea of retiring has occurred to him, the Russian leader said that he has thought of this, but "each time I found myself remembering how much I still have to do before June 1996." Asked about his long-term plans, B. Yeltsin merely said that his aides advise him to stop saying that he will not seek reelection.

During a discussion of international problems the Russian president was asked: "Are you not shocked, as many others throughout the world are, by the ethnic cleansing being carried out by Serbs in Bosnia?" "Not only am I shocked," B. Yeltsin replied, "I condemn the Serbs for not keeping their word." At the same time he expressed hope that a situation in which Serb positions would be subjected to fresh air strikes will not arise. "We have a partnership with the United States. Even if there are areas over which we disagree, we still must not react brusquely to them or conduct a dialogue from a position of strength," the Russian leader added.

In another part of the program he was asked about his health. "I am a healthy man," B. Yeltsin said. "This problem is being brought up by the opposition, especially the communists. They simply want to spoil my mood."

Yeltsin Speech to FIS Leadership, Staffers

PM2904094594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service Press Bureau report on "Speech by B.N. Yeltsin at Meeting with Leadership and Staff of Russian Foreign Intelligence Service": "Rights and Duties of Intelligence Officers"]

[Text] Russia is currently going through one of the most crucial stages in the formation of its statehood, the Russian Federation president said.

The Constitution has been adopted by a nationwide vote. The country has received the legal basis for continuing its profound economic and political transformations and for organizing normal activity by state institutions.

One of the main tasks today is to expand the Russian Federation's legislative infrastructure and develop the mechanisms for cooperation among power structures at federal, regional, and local level.

Without this we will be unable to resolve Russia's numerous problems or to overcome the economic crisis.

Our state is obliged to ensure stability and to guarantee the security of the country and of citizens. That is why it must be strong.

The Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] is directly involved in solving this problem.

Some two or so years ago the decision was made to split the former KGB into separate services. Serious reform of the Russian special services began. A number of fundamental issues have been successfully settled.

For the first time in its history Russia has a law on the foreign intelligence service. A statute on the FIS has been ratified. Thus, a firm legal base has been provided for your activities. Guarantees have been created for the legal status of and social support for intelligence officers and for the confidentiality of information about them.

The necessary reorganization has been carried out. A number of new subunits have been set up. Important steps have been taken within the FIS structure in the direction of greater openness on the part of the intelligence service toward society. Taking account of specific situations, of course.

The recently adopted Constitution has consolidated the new procedure for regulating the questions of safeguarding the state's security. These come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal authorities. Leadership of the relevant organs is provided by the president.

The FIS too is directly subordinate to the president. The supreme purpose of Russia's foreign intelligence is to serve Russia's national and state interests. We will be strengthening the service and enhancing the prestige of those who work for it. This is not only the president's principled view, it is my policy.

The country's leadership has a clear and unambiguous opinion—at a time when military budgets are being cut, intelligence information is becoming a most important guarantee of security. This means that the role of intelligence should and will increase.

Extensive use is made of the methods of secret diplomacy in the practice of international relations.

We should be able to look under the cover of these secrets so as not to be caught napping.

Your service has direct access to the Russian leadership, and this means it is obliged to supply it with objective, up-to-the-minute, and full information.

I must say that the FIS has a high reputation within the system of Russian state power. I expect that henceforth your operational information, analytical conclusions, and recommendations will receive only high assessments.

The time when the intelligence service's merits were mainly measured by how vigorously it served ideological precepts and expanded zones of ideological influence on different continents is a thing of the past.

We expect foreign intelligence to produce the intelligence information needed for the adoption of fundamental state decisions on the issues of Russia's foreign and domestic policy, the implementation of our economic policy, and the securing of scientific and technical progress.

I am well aware that the FIS has probably never faced a more complex period than it does at present. And this is determined above all by the present-day international situation.

Its main feature is the scale and high speed of the changes which are continuously complicating an already complex world.

The vector of world development is, on the whole, favorable for Russia, but we should bear in mind that its direction can change. The world is at a crossroads, largely because one of the greatest powers—Russia—is in transition.

You know just as well as I that there are forces abroad which would like to keep Russia in a state of controlled paralysis. But I am convinced that only a strong, democratic, and prosperous Russian state will be a factor in helping the world acquire a new outlook. Making Russia just such a factor is our common task.

The period of global confrontation in international politics is over, but its inertia is still strong. The Cold War has left behind a smattering of burning and smoldering conflicts. The norms of international law are proving difficult to assert. Strong-arm military factors could be brought into play at any time.

The priority task for the FIS is to anticipate problems which the state may encounter in the immediate and more distant future. Consequently, intelligence should be one of the leading think tanks for stabilizing the situation in the world and for averting any threats to Russia's national security.

We are improving the activeness of Russian foreign policy and doing the groundwork for the 21st century.

Relations between Russia and the Western countries have been improving radically of late. We have achieved a level of partnership with some of these countries. But now it is particularly important to differentiate between partnership and attempts to dominate us and to impose on us actions that run counter to Russia's interests. This is unacceptable to us.

The fundamental point in Russia's military and foreign policy doctrines is that they view no state as an enemy. This approach should also underpin Russia's intelligence doctrine.

We have concluded important arms reduction agreements and we want to be confident that our partners are strictly observing them. It is the intelligence service's constant duty to issue warnings about attempts to create [o popytkakh sozdaniya] new types of weapons or about breakthroughs by other countries [otryv drugikh stran] in the military-technical sphere.

This is all the more important because the majority of countries working on the development [sozdaniye] of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction are located relatively close to Russia. Our direct duty is to prevent any escalation of this danger and to avoid it turning into a direct threat to Russia.

Russia has its own view of its foreign and domestic policy priorities, and it has its own interests in the international arena. This is graphically visible in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis, and in our actions in nearby foreign countries and on other issues.

Recently we have clearly seen that this activeness on Russia's part sometimes gives rise to irritation. A clear illustration of this is the political campaign over the so-called "Ames affair." The real motives and goals of this anti-Russian action have clearly political overtones. U.S. intelligence is stepping up its efforts to acquire agents in Russia. But the U.S. special services believe that the FIS and its military counterparts have no right to act in the same way.

I can assure you that Russia does not intend to put up with this kind of discrimination any more. We are prepared to take every measure provided for by international law in order to rectify the situation.

Russia advocates equal and mutually advantageous cooperation and mutual respect. And I believe that our partners will learn to take our position into account.

I see the occasional outbreaks of nervousness as evidence of a gradual recognition of the fact that the newly independent states are areas of vital interest to Russia [novoye nezavisimoye gosudarstvo—zona zhiznennykh interesov Rossii].

We want there to be a zone of stability, mutually advantageous cooperation, and good-neighborliness around the perimeter of the Russian border. And nobody can rebuke us for that.

We are interested in stepping up integration processes within the CIS framework and we are striving to play a more active role in them.

It is no secret that certain politicians in the West see this as evidence of a revival of Russia's former imperial ambitions.

We can clearly see that this far-fetched thesis is being used to artificially exacerbate relations between the CIS and Baltic countries and Russia. Some of the newly independent states are also trying to derive an advantage for themselves. They are rushing to demonstrate their readiness to accept dubious proposals from outside [so storony].

The FIS faces the crucial task of acquiring preemptive information on the corresponding plans and intentions of the leading Western countries in respect of our neighbors. And of providing timely proposals for neutralizing schemes of this kind.

Rejecting the concept of "global" and "total" intelligence, it is necessary above all to systematically monitor the situation along the entire perimeter of our borders.

Russia faces near its borders a direct threat from armed conflicts which threaten here and there to spill over into Russian territory. A great deal of effort will be needed to find ways to neutralize conflict situations in adjacent countries.

The intelligence service is obliged to expose in good time the driving forces behind each conflict and the potential for a political, compromise settlement.

Guarantees for Russians living in neighboring countries are a special issue. We will vigorously protect their interests in the Baltic countries and in other states.

We need profound and accurate assessments of foreign states' attitudes to Russia itself and to the processes taking place in it. It is important to expose and skillfully thwart any attempts to influence the situation in our country from outside. All the more so if these actions are aimed at stepping up disintegration processes.

International financial and economic support for our country is a special issue. I have already said and I repeat that we do not reject it but nor are we linking the fate of reform to foreign support.

Intelligence can also make a weighty contribution to safeguarding Russia's economic security. It is far more important for Russia's economic interests to ensure free access to other countries' markets for goods and other Russian products. The solution of this problem is an important task for both our foreign policy and our intelligence service.

Organized crime has already gone beyond the confines of the country and is establishing links with European and U.S. criminal clans. The intelligence service and Russian law enforcement organs must expose these links and prevent them becoming part of an established criminal system.

A useful role in combating global threats may be played by partnership ties with foreign special services. The FIS has such powers and, as is well known, is making successful use of them. The fact that you are organizing collaboration and exchanges of information in a number of areas—the struggle against international terrorism, the illegal trade in radioactive substances, drug trafficking, organized crime, and so forth—can only be welcomed.

In conclusion I would like to note that foreign intelligence should help to consolidate positive trends in Russia, in the world, and in relations with our new partners.

Under no circumstances should we leave any loopholes for those who are interested in our secrets or who are trying to infiltrate Russian state institutions. Firm barriers must be put in the way of that. In short, we expect a lot from you, as we do from your military counterparts.

The FIS is a special organization. Its ranks boast top-notch specialists with rare and valuable skills. People who have confirmed their lofty patriotism and devotion to Russia through their intensive work abroad are employed here. Your work requires exceptional efforts. For my part, I wish to assure you that the state will provide every possible support for the FIS.

All intelligence officers, wherever they may be, can be firmly confident that their homeland needs their work, and Russia will always show proper concern for them and their families.

Yeltsin Said 'Satisfied' With Meeting

LD2804161094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—The Russian President's National security Adviser Yuriy Baturin denied mass media reports that President Boris Yeltsin was dissatisfied with his yesterday's meeting with intelligence chiefs.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday, Baturin said that the meeting was held in a candid atmosphere and helped expose many problems and set new tasks. The president was satisfied with the meeting, he added.

Counterintelligence Public Relations Center To Move

MK2804124094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Viktor Mironov report: "Lubyanka Opens New Doors"]

[Text] The Public Relations Center of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] is going to move to a new office, although within the same well-known building the service inherited from the NKVD-KGB-Security Ministry. The move has been prompted by an increase in the press group personnel and, therefore, the need to improve their working conditions. The specific location of the center's new office has not been disclosed yet, but it is known that its staffers will have spacious rooms and a separate entrance, something that will ease access to the bulwark of counterintelligence for journalists and other interested citizens. To whom it may concern: the center's telephone numbers will not change.

Possible Scenarios of Anti-Corruption Drive Explored

PM2804140794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Irina Savvateyeva: "Counterintelligence Intends To Probe Officials. Why?"]

[Text] As the paper TRUD reported the other day, during a routine meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the staff of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS), the president issued instructions for a probe of all officials of the president's apparatus, government apparatus, and all top power structures for corruption.

When approached by IZVESTIYA, the FCS refused point-blank to comment on the subject—even to provide information on whether the "instructions" were verbal or in the form of a document. The FCS Public Relations Center announced that no one would talk with us about the president's directive. The actual FCS chief, Sergey Stepashin, perhaps... Stepashin's day was described as "very busy," of course—today and in the immediate future.

But this report, made in passing, appears highly important and worthy of attention. And since there is no official informatiom to be had on the subject we will have to use guesswork.

Hypothesis number one. The president really is intent on a "shake-up" at the top in order to fight corruption. The fact that there are indeed things to combat militates in favor of this scenario. Moreover, this kind of activity brings political dividends: Fighters against corruption invariably enjoy public esteem.

But this tidy scenario is spoiled by the simple consideration that mass measures of a similar nature, embarked on on more than one occasion before, have generally got nowhere. They have been ineffective at any rate. And the people who thought up the latest "purge" are certainly aware of this. It occurs to one that these people had some special intention, somehwat different from the stated intention. What is it?

Hypothesis number two.

If one assumes that the president and his analysts are aware of the ineffectiveness of mass "purges," then one deduces that they are taking an interest not in all the "top structures of state power" but only a certain segment of them.

Analysts tend to believe that it is likely to be the government apparatus. To be precise, Chernomyrdin's immediate entourage.

The beginning of the year has clearly been marked by a strengthening of the premier's position. The January government reshuffle and the recent appointment of two new vice premiers graphically demonstrated the extent of the Cabinet of Ministers chief's independence. But the premier is finding a common language with parliament. At any rate, he is treated very fairly both in the Duma and in the Senate. His rating is steadily rising.

Observers point out that the "Gazprom" concern could be significantly strengthened in the very near future—if it succeeds in taking over part of the infrastructure and some of the oil refineries in Ukraine which are seriously in debt to the Russian oil industry. Clearly, this will also strengthen the premier's positions.

If this scenario is correct, then, experts believe, the people bound up with the oil structures will have a claim to be "leading figures" in anticorruption cases. The reasoning behind this is that there have been more and more reports in the press of late about offenses being committed by those specializing in oil exports. According to this scenario, there will very probably be major oil scandals in the very near future.

It is also thought that currently influential vice premier Oleg Soskovets could also feature in Chernomyrdin's "oil" entourage. He had had a lot of oilmen "attacking" him of late. Suddenly all the "attacks" stopped, Soskovets turned out to be their friend, and even arranged for some benefits for the oilmen.

But there is also the suggestion that the cases of corruption will not result in serious scandals. The president's current instructions, made public quite deliberately in the media, will simply "frighten" certain people and do the job that way. Although it is not inconceivable that the fight against corruption could result in some government changes.

Militia Chief Reports Holiday Public Order Measures

LD2804215194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By Crime Press correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—The forces maintaining public order over the Easter and 1 May holidays will be increased considerably, Militia Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov, head of the chief directorate for the maintenance of public order of Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, told a Crime Press correspondent.

Reinforced detachments will be posted around cemeteries and churches where services and religious processions are to be held. Measures for maintaining public order will be in operation outside churches until six a.m., the finishing time for the religious processions.

Reinforced posts will be mounted on 1 May at sites of mass public demonstrations, rallies, and marches. According to our information, these include Triumphal Square, Tverskaya Street, Manezhnaya and Kaluzhkaya Squares, and the University Metro station area.

As Ogorodnikov emphasized, the maintenance of public order will be implemented entirely by Moscow militia forces. Ministry of Internal Affairs troops are only being kept in reserve should unforeseen circumstances arise.

Additional Troops for Moscow May Day Viewed

PM2804131594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by lawyer Gennadiy Krasyukov: "May Day Coming: Be Vigilant!"]

[Text] Only recently the Russian and Moscow City Hall leadership took part in May Day celebrations with pleasure but later for some reason they lost interest in this holiday. Perhaps because their convictions changed or perhaps because they introduced their "own" holidays.

But as they say, if they do not want to take part in organized events themselves, they should not prevent others from doing so. Especially as by their inept activity they have brought millions of workers, employees, peasants, and intellectuals to an impoverished existence, deprived many of them of work, and now also want to deprive them of the opportunity at least to communicate occasionally. And this is being done in violation of the present very far from perfect Russian Federation Constitution, which they themselves signed and which they frenziedly urged working people to adopt and which they swore to observe. Article 31 of the Russian Federation Constitution clearly says: "Citizens o the Russian Federation have the right to assemble peacefully, without weapons, to hold gatherings, meetings, demonstrations, processions, and pickets." The same thing is said in article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved and proclaimed by the UN General Assembly 10 December 1948.

Our executive power leadership does not tire of repeating that it respects international law and that it is a component of the Russian legal system. But words are often at odds with specific actions. It has become a rule for far-fetched pretexts to be used to forbid applicants to hold processions at all or to determine a route which can only be called an insult to citizens and their rights.

After the end of the notification and conciliation stage and immediately before the relevant date through the mass media and radio and television representatives of the city hall and other state services put various forms of psychological pressure on the organizers of and future participants in particular events staged by the opposition. And in addition to everything else even before the start of the meeting and procession large detachments supplied with bulletproof waistcoats, helmets, shields, rubber truncheons, and often weapons as well and detachments of the special militia and other militia subunits are brought in to the venues. Then various types of vehicles close nearly all adjacent streets and avenues. In general terms the meeting's participants are "surrounded" on all sides.

After the proclaimed "peace initiatives" allegedly aimed at civil accord in society, a hope appeared that there would be an improvement in the attitude toward the above-mentioned topic. But unfortunately everything is continuing according to the usual scenario. Again the city hall representatives have started haggling with representatives of the parties and movements over assigning a venue and the means for holding events to mark May Day. Again psychological pressure is beginning on those who are intending to take part in them. In particular on 14 April VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA published in a small note information to the effect that joint exercises by militia and special militia subunits involving a total of 1,500 men had been held on the territory of the "Luzhniki" sports complex under conditions as close as possible to combat conditions. They were rehearsing operations in the event of the outbreak of mass riots and all this was linked directly with the approaching May Day.

An even more alarming report was heard on that day on radio to the effect that it is intended to bring large special militia detachments from various regions into the capital in the next few days, allegedly to fight crime.

This report cannot fail to perturb Muscovites because many of them still have fresh in their memory the illegal actions of the out of town special militia members when, armed "to the teeth," they subjected unarmed and defenseless citizens to fierce beatings during the September-October events in Moscow.

If the question of sending the regional special militia to Moscow has already been resolved then a number of questions arise. From where will the special militia subunits come, how many will there be, how long will they stay, and where and against whom will they act? If it is to render aid to the Moscow militia in the struggle against crime then why are they being transferred on the threshold of the May Day holidays? Does that mean that previously the crime situation in the city was better than it is now, or is it that things are going well in the struggle against crime in the regions from which it is intended to send them to Moscow?

I suggest that the State Duma on the basis of the committees for security and legislation create a special commission which would monitor the political events in Moscow, the activity of the special militia, and other militia subunits. First of all it is essential to prevent their use by the authorities against the people's masses. Unfortunately we have grown accustomed to creating commissions after the event, that is when blood has already been shed, the public has already been aroused, and no culprits can be found.

The actual participants in the May Day events must display heightened vigilance and through their efforts ensure proper order and discipline during a possible procession. If provocateurs do appear it is essential to establish their identity and hand them over to the militia, finding out afterward what steps have been taken with regard to them. It would be useful if those who have them were to take cameras and video cameras with them so that they can film everything that happens and if necessary make use of what they have filmed.

Peace to May Day and a good mood for all Russia's citizens!

Rybkin Urges Yeltsin To Raise Defense Budget Issue

LD2804165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] On Thursday the speaker of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin sent a letter to President Boris Yeltsin urging him to discuss the defense budget at the next session of the Security Council attended by representatives of the ministries of defense, finance and economics as well as the defense committee of the lower house of parliament. This was reported in an interview with Interfax by the chairman of the committee Aleksandr Piskunov. He also heads a working group for the classified part of the government-made draft of the federal budget which includes defense spending.

Piskunov said the need for addressing the president was prompted by the conclusions drawn by his group and by the Wednesday meeting with representatives of the leading munitions company Barrikady from Volgograd.

According to Piskunov, the working group compared government estimates concerning the defense budget for 1994 with actual spending during the first quarter. It discovered that during the first three months of the year the debt of the Defense Ministry to the defense industry increased from 2.1 to 4.7 trillion rubles.

Proceeding from this it is suggested spending 55 trillion rubles on defence in 1994. In this case, Piskunov said, it would be possible to support the presidential proposal on spending ten percent of the defense budget on research and testing. Overall investments in the defence industry would then go up from 20.7 to 28 percent of the general volume of defense spending, which would be a return to the 1992 situation.

At the same time the working group invited the Defense Ministry to take emergency steps to stabilize the situation in the armed forces. According to Piskunov, this could be achieved through minimizing defense spending this year through stopping the contract system for privates and retired officers and changing the whole system of military training proceeding from actual needs. Besides, combat units should be fully staffed and their combat capability should be guaranteed by taking the remaining units into reserves or disbanding them.

Cossacks Want 'State Status,' Special Government Committee

PM2804154594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Apr 94 p2

[Report by Vladimir Seleznev: "Frontier Posts; Cossacks Appeal to the Russian President for Help"]

[Text] According to the Russian Federation Presidential Administration's Operational Information Center, a conference has been held on Staraya Ploshchad with the leaders of Cossack formations stationed in the territory of the Russian Federation. The conference was attended by representatives of the Union of Cossacks and the Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and Abroad. There was a detailed discussion on the Cossacks' problems and on the need to give Cossack formations independent state-legal status.

An appeal to Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin was adopted as a result of the discussion, in which the leaders of Cossack formations offered their own proposals to take the Cossacks to a new level of cultural, economic, and military development. The text of the document and the circumstances which made its appearance necessary were commented on by Comrade Ataman Vladimir Naumov from the Union of Cossacks, who took part in the conference:

"No legislative act concerning a state formation of the Cossacks has been properly implemented so far. The greatest concern is caused by time wasted developing the entire state service system, despite the fact that Cossack regions ensured the latest draft into the Russian Army. Cossack posts are being brought up to strength at the most dangerous points along the Russian border. Cossack communes have received their first few thousand hectares of land and have become a force capable of protecting Russia's borders. The Cossacks need state status in Russia, because their present status as a social organization has exhausted its possibilities.

"Meanwhile, some rather dubious organizations are operating on the land markets of the Don and the Kuban; they have already bought up considerable areas of land, while the Land Bank of Russia, which once backed Stolypin's agrarian reforms, does nothing. But the Cossacks will not serve without land. That is why it is necessary to finally adopt normative documents on a special procedure for Cossack land use, following on from the presidential edict 'On the Regulation of Land Relations.' What is happening in the Don region and the Kuban could lead to social uproar.

"The situation is critical: There has now formed a potent mix of several former representatives of state services and criminal 'authorities,' who have begun to pin all kinds of general's shoulder straps, sabers, and orders on one another.

"There are certain forces trying to set the Cossacks in opposition to the Russian state. Imposters are appearing: Laughable figures in Cossack uniform with a rich criminal past, promising everyone everything immediately in their quest for Cossack chieftainship. But, as historical experience shows, those who swear loyalty with excessive fervor are the first to betray you.

"Of course, many want power and the benefits that go with it, but giving power over paramilitary organizations to all and sundry is unwise, to say the least. This was clearly demonstrated by the scandalous meeting in Omsk in January.

"The president of Russia has clearly said that Russia is a great country, and the Union of Cossacks is prepared to do state service for the good of a great Russia.

"With the power of the center weakened, only the full development of state service will make it possible to end the oppression of the Cossacks in the North Caucasus, Tataria, Khakasia, and the former Soviet republics. Unfortunately, the State Duma's draft laws have yet to note the special status of Russia's border regions and the stabilizing role which the Cossacks could play. Very many new faces have recently appeared in the parliamentary arena, but will state wisdom finally appear in the State Duma? The Cossack villages of Taldy Kurgan have been blockaded for more than a week now, and there are other deplorable examples. Every opportunity must be taken to protect the Russian population. It is dangerous to delay. In our view, the first step must be to set up a state committee for Cossack affairs under the government."

State Environmental Protection Efforts Eyed

PM2804160994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by Natalya Davydova: "The Ministry Responsible For the Future"]

[Text] Under the new Constitution, we all have the right to a healthy environment and reliable information on its condition. The president's recent message to the Federal Assembly "On Strengthening the Russian State" laid special emphasis on the duty of all organs of power to create conditions conducive to improving the environment. After all, environmental safety is an integral part of Russia's national security. For a long time our country fought vigorously with nature, subjugated it, and transformed it, and now the time has come to settle the accounts. We are paying with our health and the future of our children. If we were to calculate the monetary equivalent, ecologists estimate that our country would need fantastic sums of money to bring the environment up to Western standards. Many readers write and ask who exactly in Russia watches over citizens' constitutional right to clean water, air, and soil. The question is more than relevant. Everyone has heard of the "Green" movement, "Kedr," and similar social organizations, but we also have state structures. How many are there, what do they do, and what are their responsibilities? We will discuss this under our new rubric, "Nature and Power."

The Russian Federation now has an established system of bodies responsible for environmental protection: a federal ministry, territorial subdivisions for the protection and rational use of natural resources, and a number of state bodies whose functions include monitoring and inspecting the use of certain natural resources and pollution of the environment: the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision; committees for land resources and land management, geology and the use of mineral resources, fisheries, and water resources; a federal service for hydrometeorology and monitoring of the environment; and a federal forestry service.

A Higher Environmental Council is being formed in the State Duma. In addition, a Council for Environmental Policy has been set up under the Russian Federation president, and the Russian Federation Security Council has an interdepartmental commission for environmental safety. The General Prosecutor's Office has a department for supervising implementation of environmental protection legislation. In fact, there are special subdivisions responsible for environmental protection in the organizational structures of every branch of power.

We will start by acquainting ourselves with the country's main environmental department: the Ministry for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

It enjoys the status of a federal ministry in the structure of organs of executive power approved by presidential edict in January. However, the work of the ministry, whose objectives are incorporated in its name, is not very well known to a broad audience. Moreover, the social status of our environmental department does not correspond to the status of similar structures in Western countries.

The structure of the ministry's central apparatus is as follows. The leadership forms the upper level. Below are the main administrations: environmental expert assessment; mineral reserves; science and technology; environmental safety; use of natural resources; environmental programs; nature reserves; natural biological resources; international cooperation; legal normative regulation; financing and development of materials and equipment; protection of the atmosphere; protection of the water table; the environmental protection maritime service; protection of soil and land resources; and protection of the environment from industrial and consumer waste.

A federal environmental fund and a public reception center are attached to the ministry. As a whole, the structure of the central apparatus corresponds to the main areas of environmental protection activity. There are also shortcomings typical of state bodies in our country: the organization and administration department, for example, whose staff is more than double that of far more important subdivisions. I should point out for the sake of objectivity, however, that it is proposed to improve the ministry's structure.

Protection of the environment is one of the main national priorities of developed countries, where state environmental services have been in operation for decades. In our country, however, the environmental department is still in its infancy, as the RSFSR State Committee for Nature Protection was set up only in 1988; this was later transformed into a ministry, and the law "On Protection of the Environment," which is essentially the basis of the ministry's activity, came into effect only in 1992. Our main environmental protection department has undergone several reorganizations in the last five years, apparently whenever the ministry has been finding its feet and starting to monitor monopolistic departments responsible for pollution. Clearly, such reorganizations are not conducive to resolving environmental problems at state level and prevent the environmental protection department from fulfilling its basic tasks.

The Ministry for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources should be responsible for general coordination of the activity of ministries, departments, enterprises, institutions, and organizations in the field of protection of the environment and natural resources; conduct an integrated science and technology policy in this sphere; develop and improve economic, legal, and administrative mechanisms for the use of natural resources; organize and set in motion state commissions of environmental experts; and much more.

The ministry has a sufficiently sound research base: Under its jurisdiction it has more than 20 institutes and centers, whose main function is to form science and technology policy in the field of environmental protection. In addition, it can enlist the scientific potential of the Russian Academy of Sciences and state universities.

The ministry draws up specially targeted environmental programs. The best known is the federal science and technology program entitled "Russia's Environmental Safety," the drafting and implementation of which have had strong repercussions in environmental circles. Environmental protection problems are also reflected in other major programs: "The Revival of the Volga," "The Oka—a Clean River," "Waste," "Conversion—Ecology," "Radon," "Dioxins," and others.

First Deputy Minister Professor A.F. Poryadin has highlighted the following priority areas of the ministry's activity: First, it is vital to secure legislative and normative support for environmental protection activity and to adopt a complex of laws and legally binding acts in this sphere. The law "On Protection of the Environment" has undoubtedly played a positive role, but it is impossible to improve the environment in Russia without the system of environmental legislation that exists in Western countries. Second, there must be financial and economic support for environmental protection activity, so that the thin, constantly interrupted stream of budget funding is augmented by resources received on the basis of the principle "there are no free natural resources" and "polluters must pay." Finally, optimum organizational and structural support based on Russia's specific features will have considerable importance for the efficiency of all environmental protection activity in our country. There is no developed system of organization and collaboration between all the structures functioning in the environmental protection sphere. There are no clear responsibilities, while at the same time, for example, territorial environmental protection bodies are subordinate to the ministry, on the one hand, and to the local administration, on the other. In such cases there is always "confusion and hesitation," financial complications, a lack of responsibility, and the possibility of arbitrariness.

Ecology is part of the economy and politics, so drawing up a strategy in the environmental protection sphere is the state's prerogative. In this sense, the recent presidential edict "On the State Strategy of the Russian Federation To Protect the Environment and Ensure Its Stable Development" is more than topical. Having said that, it will require colossal efforts—mainly on the part of the Ministry for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources and territorial environmental protection bodies—to achieve a breakthrough in the environmental situation in our country.

We will continue to acquaint you with various environmental protection structures and talk about their work and the problems facing them in coming issues.

Text of Yeltsin Edict on N. Ossetia Emergency Zone

PM2904082594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Edict No. 836 of the Russian Federation president "On the Introduction of a State of Emergency on Part of the Territory of the Republic of North Ossetia," dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 27 April 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In accordance with Article 88 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the RSFSR law "On States of Emergency," and the Russian Federation law "On Security," I decree:

1. A state of emergency is to be introduced on the territories of Prigorodnyy Rayon (the population centers of Oktyabrskoye, Kambileyevskoye, and Sunzha) and the city of Vladikavkaz ("Sputnik" military camp) in the Republic of North Ossetia from 1400 hours on 27 April 1994 through 1400 hours on 31 May 1994.

2. Points 3-8 of the Russian Federation president's Edict No. 657 of 4 April 1994 "On the Introduction of a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic" are to be extended to the territory of the population centers and the military camp listed in Point 1 of this edict.

3. This edict comes into force the moment it is signed. In accordance with Article 102 of the Russian Federation Constitution, this edict is to be sent to the Federal Assembly Federation Council for approval.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Kremlin, Moscow, 27 April 1994

Commission Preparing Report on Human Rights

LD2804185794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1853 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—Russia's commission on human rights is preparing a report on human rights in Russia which will be presented to President Boris Yeltsin.

The commission, set up by the president after the October 1993 revolt in Moscow, will inform him about human rights abuses in the country, commission chairman Sergey Kovalev said on Thursday.

The commission plans to finish a national human rights programme by the end of May. The programme has been developed in cooperation with the Russian Foreign Ministry. The commission also handles complaints about violations of civil rights.

Kovalev, who has been appointed by the State Duma a commissioner on human rights, said that a draft law regulating the status, rights and duties of the commissioner on human rights is now being discussed in the Duma Committee for Legislation.

He believes that after the law has been adopted, the commission on human rights will have to continue working in order to keep the president informed about human rights in Russia.

Poll Shows Decline in Support for Most Parties

PM2804154794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Oleg Savelyev of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions: "Today Russians Would Vote Differently to 12 December"]

[Text] As the date of the elections to the Federal Assembly recedes, the discrepancy between the actual deeds of the various blocs and parties represented in the State Duma and the promises which they lavished during the election campaign is becoming increasingly obvious.

In order to measure trust in the political blocs and parties, the following question was posed during an opinion poll conducted recently by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion among approximately 4,000 Russians from a representative sample of the adult population of the Russian Federation. If elections to parliament were held next Sunday, for which bloc or party would you vote in these elections? The answers to this question were distributed (in percentages) as follows:

"Russia's Choice" (Ye. Gaydar)	8
Communist Party of the Russian Federation	7
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia	6
"Women of Russia"	6
"Yabloko" [Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin bloc]	4
Agrarian Party	4
Democratic Party of Russia	3
Party of Russian Unity and Accord	2
Dignity and Charity	1
Russia's Future—New Names	0.9
Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms	0.7
Civic Union	0.6
Kedr Environmental Movement	0.4
Would vote against them all	3
Would not go to elections at all	28
Don't Know	around 21

The Communists and Agrarians had the most stable supporters in this poll. Relatively less stability is shown by the advocates of Zhirinovskiy's party (57 percent) and the "Russia's Choice" (55 percent) and "Yabloko" (52 percent) blocs. The supporters of Travkin's party (44 percent) and the "Women of Russia" political bloc (35 percent) showed the least constancy.

Regions' Unregulated International Ties Questioned

PM2804152394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Article by Doctor of Legal Sciences Vladimir Pustogarov, leading scientific associate of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law, carried under the "Authority of the Regions" rubric: "Without Guidelines: No One Regulates the Components of the Federation's International Ties"]

[Text] The republics, krays, and oblasts of the Russian Federation are exhibiting ever-increasing autonomy today. Yaroslavl Oblast, for example, has concluded treaties (mainly economic in nature) with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, individual regions of Turkey and Germany, and certain other foreign partners. Yaroslavl Oblast has signed a total of more than 20 such treaties.

Tatarstan and Bashkiria have equally extensive international ties. Yakutia's trade and economic agreement with Ukraine, signed at the end of 1993, extends over five years and embraces a broad range of items. Yakutia reportedly plans to conclude an agreement with Japan and open a trade mission there.

What is the significance of such large-scale treaty activity on the part of Federation members? Primarily it meets the needs of regions "neglected" by the federal authorities in their relations with other states.

Some rules have gradually been elaborated governing the international activity of Federation components. For all their disparateness, they have quite a lot in common. First and foremost, Federation components should be guided by the principles and standards of international law and the international commitments of the Federation, they should operate within their constitutional authority and in agreement with federal executive authority, and they should refrain from encroaching on the sphere of diplomatic and consular rights.

For us, however, international ties are a new venture both for republics and oblasts—indeed for all 89 components of the Russian Federation. We are only just beginning to get familiar with this new kind of activity. The Russian Federation's components still have to learn the rules accepted throughout the world and make them tally with their own interests. The task is clearly no easy one: The overwhelming majority of components have neither the experience nor the trained cadres. Moreover, they do not have the legal guidelines to follow when embarking on a largely unknown path.

But the problem is that the Russian Federation's components are unable to rely sufficiently on the existing Constitution when structuring their foreign activity, as the Constitution fails to mention the components' actual right to pursue international ties. This right is obliquely referred to in Article 72, where "the coordination of the international and foreign economic ties of Russian Federation components " falls within areas of joint jurisdiction. If we are talking about coordinating international ties, then the right to establish and develop them also exists. However, this sole provision cannot, naturally, regulate the entire large and complex system of international ties involving Russia's components.

Consulting the Federation Treaty is of little avail in this regard either. The only additional information to be gleaned from it is that the components of the Russian Fedeartion are "autonomous parties in international and foreign economic ties."

"Autonomous party in international ties".... The wording looks very impressive, but on closer scrutiny its content is completely unclear. What specifically can a Federation component to develop its international ties? How does its autonomy square with the extensive powers enjoyed by the Federation in the sphere of international relations? Are these powers retained by Federation components?

Since all this is vaguely worded, it is not at all easy to identify the specific areas where Russian Federation components can operate as "autonomous participants in international ties." It is, of course, possible to cite the existing practice of certain republics and oblasts, but the question is whether this practice is congruous with the Constitution and existing legislation.

In other words, there is a large legal vacuum today which offers scope for the most arbitrary interpretations and thereby generates conflicts, as it were, both inside and outside the Federation. The fact that the development of Russian Federation components' international ties seems to be allowed to go its own sweet way could have the most adverse consequences for both the durability of the Federation and the integrity of its external relations.

Spokesman on Kazakh Arrest of Russian Community Leader

LD2804161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The arrest of a leading member of Kazakhstan's Russian speaking community, Boris Suprunyuk, gave rise to "serious concern" in Moscow, a spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, said at Thursday's briefing.

According to him, his ministry has already requested Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry to inform it urgently of what Suprunyuk is charged with, as well as of investigation and other actions taken against him.

As Karasin said, Alma Ata [Almaty] "has resorted to the thesis that Suprunyuk must be subjected to psychiatric examination." "This cannot fail to evoke memories of the notorious methods of combating dissent. Nevertheless we hope that the Kazakh authorities will display an objective and unbiased approach, that they will be guided by their commitments in the area of human rights, including those made in the framework of the CSCE," Karasin said.

Media Issues

IZVESTIYA Announces Subscription Rates

PM2804143194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial feature: "You Can Subscribe to IZVESTIYA and the NEDELYA Weekly for Half the Postal Rate"]

[Text] As of 27 April a concessionary editorial office subscription rate will be available for IZVESTIYA and the NEDELYA weekly.

By agreement with the editorial office, this task has been undertaken by the "ASS-pechat" Joint-Stock Company, which has a network of kiosks in Moscow. Once subscriptions have been processed, the newspapers will be available for six months from three of these kiosks. These own-brand kiosks (blue with the legend "ASS-pechat") are located at:

1. 18, Tverskaya Street, ("Pushkinskaya," "Gorkovskaya," or "Chekhovskaya" subway stations, the kiosk is in the square outside of the editorial building);

2. 35, B. Polyanka Street ("Polyanka" subway station, the kiosk is opposite the "Molodaya Gvardiya" store);

3. 21, Sadovaya-Spasskaya Street ("Krasnyye Vorota" subway station, the kiosk is opposite the skyscraper).

The kiosks will accept three- and six-month subscriptions. For the first time a collective subscription to IZVESTIYA and NEDELYA will be available. [Figures in following table indicate price in rubles]

	Three months	Six months
IZVESTIYA	4,500	9,000
NEDELYA	4,000	8,000
IZVESTIYA and NEDELYA	6,500	13,000

In the second half of the year, another eight-page supplement—IZVESTIYA. EKSPERTIZA (see the pilot issue of EKSPERTIZA in today's issue)—will be regularly published in addition to the IZVESTIYA-TV and FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA sections. Readers will be able to learn from EKSPERTIZA about the quality of many goods, foodstuffs, and forecasts for the development of the economic situation, and they will find expert advice about where best to invest their money and how to deal with the necessary documents in the most diverse everyday situations.

NEDELYA subscribers will be able to have six private announcements published free in the newspaper.

IZVESTIYA Announces New 'Expert Assessment' Section

PM2704143794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Untitled editorial office announcement]

[Text] This issue of our newspaper includes the new "pilot" insert "IZVESTIYA. Expert Assessment."

It will carry articles by independent experts who will discuss how best to use vouchers in the days remaining until the end of voucher privatization; what will happen to crime in the immediate future; what is the quality of the drinking water we receive from city pipes; the dangers of domestic microwave ovens; why American consumers are not worried about the quality of their food and medicine; what a Snickers bar actually contains; how apartments are bought and sold; and much else besides.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Seeks Funds Advance to Textile Industry

PM2804164594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94

[Untitled POSTFACTUM report from the "Events of the Week" roundup—from the FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section page I]

[Text] Textile and light industry enterprises are hoping for a budget advance of 400 billion rubles [R]. Following the recent meeting between Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Tatyana Sosninaya, chairman of the Textile and Light Industry Union, a letter signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and proposing "by way of an exception to resolve in a favorable manner the question of offering textile and light industry enterprises a budget advance of R400 billion, issued in stages as of May 1994, for the purchase of raw materials" was sent to the Russian Ministry of Finance. Apart from this, it is recommended that "the examination and signing of a sector wage agreement be speeded up." According to Tatyana Sosninaya, a wage agreement may be signed before 26 April. In which case, the obstacles preventing the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord by the textile workers' union will be removed.

Further Oil Company Drops Prices for Farmers

PM2904095994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 4

[Rustam Arifdzhanov report: "Yet Another Oil Company Lowers Its Prices In Order To Increase Its Survival Chances"]

[Excerpts] The second largest Russian oil company—"Yukos"—has decided to lower its prices of petroleum products for Central Russian farmers until 15 June. This decision was made following a tour of eight Russian agrarian oblasts by the company's president, Sergey Muravlenko. The necessary quantity of petroleum products for the sowing campaign has already been dispatched to the regions.

There is quite a serious subtext to this—at first sight, paradoxical and populist—decision. Around one month ago another oil giant—"Lukoyl"—resorted to the same step, lowering its prices for three months. The oil companies' decision is in many ways to be explained by the nonpayments crisis. The consumer debt to "YUKOS" already amounts to more than 500 billion rubles. The three biggest debtors are agrarians, metallurgical workers, and the military-industrial complex. [passage omitted]

Contracts have been signed with agrarians on barter exchange—petroleum products for agricultural produce. Companies require at least some kind of guarantee that their product will be paid for. Otherwise, if there is a repeat of last year's nonpayments crisis, the oil industry will be ruined.

The threat of the breakup or reorganization of companies is compeling them to adopt various counter tactics. The spring price reductions are unexpected only at first glance. In the face of the threat of a return to the times of state monopoly and state control, oil companies are showing that the market mechanism allows one to act swiftly and flexibly in the oil industry too.

Government Adjourns Debate on Economy

MK2904092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report in the "Government" column: "The Government Presidium Has Decided To Fight Forest Fires and Trade in Wool. Discussion of Situation in Russia's Economy Has Been Postponed"]

[Text] The latest session of the Russian Federation Government Presidium yesterday began with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin proposing that it not discuss the implementation of the Council of Ministers resolution On the Situation of the Russian Economy and Prospects for Its Development for 1994 but, "owing to its special importance," devote to this subject a special session set tentatively for 3 May. Therefore the ministers had to consider a draft federal program titled Reducing the Level of Radiation of Russia's Population and Production Personnel from Natural Radioactive Sources in 1994-1996 (radon program) and map out urgent measures to protect forests and reindeer pasture lands as well as preserve the sheep breeding and processing industry.

There are two federal programs in Russia to protect forests from fire and on reforestation, said Valeriy Shubin, chief of the Russian Federation Forestry Service, but due to a shortage of funds preparations for the summer period "have practically been thwarted," in spite of the fact that some 600 pockets of forest fires (approximately 6,000 hectares) have been identified. The Forestry Service was to get 135 billion rubles this year to implement the programs, but so far has received only a small portion and managed to conclude contracts with only six out of 19 air units—and even those have only 11 percent of the required fuel stocks. Mr. Shubin demanded, in addition to funds, the creation of a "rapid reaction" fire fighting reserve and to provide forestry employees with firearms and ammunition. The government presidium deemed these demands quite reasonable and decided to finalize the draft resolution on measures to protect forests and reindeer pastures from fires and present it for signing to the government in three days.

It was also decided to finalize and submit to government approval the radon program. To protect Russians from radiation (sources: radon gas and construction materials, primarily granite slates), whose aggregate dose exceeds by 300 times the level produced by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the first stage of the program calls for research to be conducted, technological charts to be drawn up, and standards worked out. The second stage envisions a campaign of public awareness and training in methods of protection against natural radiation. The overall cost of the project is 41 billion rubles, including 20 billion from the federal budget.

The presidium related with full understanding also to the draft resolution moved by the Agriculture Ministry on urgent measures to preserve the domestic sheep breeding and processing industry. Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha said that the sheep population in Russia has been halved compared to 1990, while woolen fabric production has fallen by 80 percent. At the same time agricultural producers, according to him, cannot find a market for 60,000 tonnes of wool, to which amount the upcoming sheep shearing will add another 70,000 to 80,000 tonnes. Therefore Mr. Zaveryukha asked the government to help market the surplus wool because "this is a matter of survival for those Russian Federation ethnic groups that traditionally engage in sheep breeding." First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets supported the country's number one agrarian and called on the ministers not to shun agrarian questions and "not stigmatize the agrarians as anti-marketeers, but let the Agro-Industrial Complex into the market."

Yeltsin's Economic Advisers Profiled

PM2804154994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 9

[Yaroslav Shimov report: "President's Experts Hunt for Economic Idiocies"—from the "Expert Analysis" section]

[Text] The Russian president's group of economics experts was organized in the fall of 1991 by Professor Igor Nit, now sadly deceased. For the first time academics who had contrived to study the problems of the market economy for several years in a country where official theory invariably coupled the word "market" with the term "capitalist," which had a universally negative sense, were included among the president's expert advisers.

The group was and remains very small: There are six people directly involved in work connected with the formation of economic policy. The majority are young people aged between 25 and 40. In the words of the group's current leader, Doctor of Economic Sciences Aleksandr Livshits, two qualities serve as the criterion for the selection of experts: professionalism and personal integrity. Mr. Livshits calls his staffers "ammunition carriers," not, however, investing this term with any scorn. In the final analysis, no weapon will fire without shells.

The 47-year-old leader of the expert group has been in his current post for just six weeks. Before this, having graduated from the Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy, he spent many years in academic work. He devoted his doctoral dissertation to market problems—to "Reaganomics," the economy policy of the U.S. Administration in the first half of the eighties.

The experts handle three things. First, "they support the president's current work on economic questions." To put it simplistically, they endeavor to make presidential edicts concerning the economy as rational and useful as possible. Second, they make short-term forecasts of the country's economic development. Third, they assess decisions on economic questions made by the president, the government, and the legislature.

Objections to these decisions arise among the experts quite frequently. One recent example is the issue of changing customs tariffs. On this score the expert group has its own opinion, which it will endeavor to bring to the president's notice. The experts also had a hand in B. Yeltsin's recent letter to V. Chernomyrdin and to the Federal Assembly and Central Bank leaders on the subject of the defaulting problem.

Although the expert evaluations do not always please everyone, the group's leader claims that there have been no significant conflicts between government structures and the experts. Relations with the State Duma are also developing just fine.

The president sees his own experts rarely. However, for them it is not personal contact with Boris Yeltsin that is of greatest significance but the frequency with which the president reads the analytical memoranda and other documents that the expert group sends him. After all, right now in Russia economic policy is above all the result of a struggle between powerful lobbies whose deep bass is capable of drowning out the quiet voice of the specialists.

However, on so important a document as the draft state budget the experts did manage to exert their influence. Their remarks and proposals were sent to B. Yeltsin in Sochi, where the president vacationed in March. In the words of Aleksandr Livshits, a significant number of these observations were taken on board by those who finalized the draft. As a result more attention was devoted in the budget to the social sphere.

The experts themselves are also people of flesh and blood, with their own prejudices in economics and politics. However, according to their own claims, the expert group endeavors to be as objective as possible, keeping within the limits of strictly economic calculations and forecasts. As for attempts to lobby the president via the experts, few have been made. The group leader refused to cite specific examples, referring to the fact that "the interests of the most diverse forces are mixed up in this business."

The Kremlin's comfortable offices dispose one to speculative constructs: Let us do such-and-such, they say, and rivers of milk and honey will flow from Moscow to the borders. Understanding this, the president's experts endeavor to behave fairly openly, meeting with a very wide variety of people. Among those who have visited them recently are "black-hands" (representatives of the independent mine workers' trade union), bankers, and farmers. Incidentally, most visitors complain that reforms, especially in the provinces, are at a standstill, and bureaucracy is as all-powerful as ever.

Apparatus traditions should be anathema to the president's analysts themselves, even though their group belongs to the Russian president's staff of aides. None of the Kremlin economics experts worked under old system with the state leaders who preceded B. Yeltsin. Overall, the chief of the expert group sums up his work as follows: "Perhaps we have not done so very much. I cannot say precisely that we have managed to save Russia from a mass of economic idiocies which might have been committed."

Military & Space Issues

Cosmos-2280 Satellite Launched from Baykonur

LD2804192094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance corrrespondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—Today at 2014 the Russian military space forces launched a space vehicle, Cosmos-2280, from launch pad number 31 at Baykonur space center.

The satellite was launched using a three-stage Soyuz-V launching vehicle.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the military space forces press center that the launch, which was carried out in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry, took place successfully.

TASS Provides Parameters for Cosmos-2280

LD2904083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Flight Control Centre (Moscow Region) April 29 TASS—The Cosmos-2280 satellite was put into orbit with a Soyuz booster from the Baykonur Cosmodrome on April 28, 1994. The satellite will be used in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:

initial period of revolution—89 minutes,

apogee—290 kilometers,

perigee—198 kilometers,

orbital inclination—70 decrees.

The satellite's onboard equipment functions normally.

TASS Reports on Mir Space Station Mission

LD2904082794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Flight Control Centre (Moscow Region) April 29 TASS - Another space week is nearing completion for Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov aboard the Mir space station.

The flight programme for the last two days included geophysical and astrophysical investigations as well as routine servicing of some systems of the station and modules.

Using videospectrometric equipment installed on the stabilised platform of the Kvant-2 module, the cosmonauts made several snapshots of the Earth's surface. The main tasks of this work were investigations of the ecological situation in major industrial hubs and areas of oil and gas production.

To study further mechanisms of generation of elementary high- energy charged particles in the earth's radiation belts and near- earch space, the crew fulfilled several experiments with the use of a magnetic spectrometer.

Under a medical checkup plan, the ship commander and flight engineer will undergo an echographic investigation of the cardiovascular system on Friday under the supervision of the crew doctor.

The station's flight continues under a preset programme. The cosmonauts are healthy and feel well.

Yeltsin Orders Continued Study on Army Bases Abroad

PM2904083194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Untitled Russian Federation president's Directive No. 184-rp, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 10 April 1994]

[Text] 1. The Russian Foreign Ministry, jointly with the Russian Defense Ministry and other interested ministries and departments of the Russian Federation, is to continue its work to study the possibilities of setting up Russian Federation Armed Forces military bases or military facilities on CIS states' territory by agreement with them.

2. This directive comes into force the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
10 April 1994

General Dispels Doubts Over Control of Nuclear Missiles

MK2904073094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Army" column: "Nuclear Warheads Return to Russia. Russian Missilemen Use Ukraine Equipment But Moscow Controls Nuclear Weapons in Any Event"]

[Text] Ukraine honors its obligations and is evacuating nuclear warheads to Russian in accordance with an earlier coordinated schedule, Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces, told foreign military attaches in Moscow yesterday. By this time 180 Ukrainian warheads have arrived in Russia to Nuclear Industry Ministry installations for subsequent dismantling. In response the Russian nuclear department is shipping to Ukraine deliveries of fuel elements for Ukraine's nuclear power plants.

The planned withdrawal of missile regiments from Belorussia [Belarus] continues. On 28 March during a summit in Moscow Presidents Yeltsin and Nazarbayev signed an agreement on military cooperation and the status of strategic nuclear forces whereby missile divisions in Kazakhstan were moved under Russian Federation jurisdiction, and also coordinated a schedule for the evacuation to Russia of all nuclear warheads within 14 months. After that, within three years, all launchers and strategic missiles in Kazakhstan are to be abolished.

The procedure for the abolition, however, has not so far been finalized (the details of the Russian-Kazakhstan nuclear agreement did not become known until recently).

The process of "nuclear divorce" of Russia with Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan is proceeding amazingly smoothly. Yet problems remain: On 25 April General Staff Academy official Nikolay Kostin publicly expressed doubts about "the circle of people today possessing information about strategic arms command and control systems."

In response to SEGODNYA's correspondent, Gen. Sergeyev stated that in his troops "everything is under control." Should any attempt be made to reveal nuclear codes, emergency warning panels will flash in all related headquarters, including the General Staff. Maybe Kostin meant the warheads of the air-based strategic cruise missiles of the 45th Army stationed in Ukraine?

The equipment used to command and control strategic nuclear missiles was indeed manufactured in Kharkov. Russian specialists are apparently concerned over the possibility of leaks of strategic information from there (inducing to other foreign countries). Yet Gen. Sergeyev is calm because the control system's software is of Russian origin. "Without the software, the hardware is of little value," Mr. Sergeyev stressed.

Under the START I Treaty, 403 strategic missiles (including Ukrainian) and 302 launchers have been destroyed. Even so there are approximately 67 percent of domestic strategic carriers in the Strategic Missiles Forces (1,150 units, of which 350 are in neighboring states) and more than 75 percent of the Russian Federation's aggregate megaton charge.

Status of Spring Military Draft Profiled

PM2704134994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed photofeature: "Spring Draft: What Will Response Be?"]

[Text]**Defense Ministry's Position**

Major General Vasiliy Smirnov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate:

"There have been no extra changes to the legislation under which the draft is organized.

"The right to a draft deferment is granted for the duration of a citizen's studies within the limits of the normative timetable for the assimilation of basic educational programs under the set standard provisions for state and municipal educational institutions...."

In other words, students at commercial nonstate higher educational establishments have no right to a deferment until the educational establishments receive their state accreditation!

It should be recalled that deferments are issued once only—in order for people to complete their studies! If a student gives up his studies or merely transfers to another higher educational establishment, his deferment ends. Even if there is a military faculty at the new establishment. That is the law.

Currently there is no mechanism for implementing alternative service. This service is mentioned only in one place—Article 59 of the Russian Federation Constitution. But there are currently no other acts of legislation on this service (where it should take place, or what the mechanism for its implementation should be).

Legislators' Position

The questions of the Russian Army draft are regulated by the law "On the Military Draft and Military Service" previously adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Subsequent changes relating to the military draft procedure were made to this law by a Russian Federation presidential edict. The State Duma's Defense Committee believes that, following the adoption of the new Constitution, the law should be brought into line with the fundamental law. The committee is now doing corresponding work in this area. Moreover, work is under way on a legislative substantiation of the constitutional provision on alternative service. Some draftees who refuse to be drafted on religious or other grounds are currently subject to criminal prosecution in the absence of an appropriate law. The scale of this phenomenon is such that, in the opinion of certain representatives of the Duma Committee for the Affairs of Public Associations and Religious Organizations, it is possible to talk about "prisoners of conscience" in this country—which is a direct consequence of the lack of a federal law on alternative service.

Opinion of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers

"The law on education and the constitutionally guaranteed right to a professional education were violated last year," Valentina Melnikova, press secretary of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, says. "Edict No. 1573 'On the Military Draft of Russian Federation Citizens of Draft Age Studying By Day at Initial and Secondary Vocational Educational Establishments' was issued in October. The spring draft to the Army will again deprive many young people of an opportunity to get an education. And if this continues, then, in the opinion of sociologists and economists, the system of vocational and technical education in the country will be completely destroyed."

Independent Lawyer's View

"Under the new Russian Constitution citizens have the right to substitute community [grazhdanskiy] service for military service," Sergey Sorokin, chairman of the "Movement Against Violence" public organization, said.

"The right to alternative service has been recognized—back on 22 November 1991—and it is necessary to observe the law. There is no alternative service in Russia today, nor should there be! A draftee who wishes to opt for alternative service should stay home and wait for the notorious law on alternative service to see the light of day."

From the Resolution of the International Conference under the Slogan "Rights of People in Uniform"

It shall be deemed necessary to set up an organ of military reform, transforming the Defense Ministry into a political and administrative department headed by a civilian;

the wording of contracts shall be revised with a view to increasing the state's responsibility for carrying out its obligations to servicemen;

the number of combined and other units staffed by men from other units shall be reduced;

the number of military educational establishments and the number of officers graduating from them shall be reduced;

with a view to eliminating bullying and bringing about the spiritual revival of the Army and Navy in the transitional period prior to the reformation of the Army into a professional army, professional schools for non-commissioned officers or sergeants shall be established to ensure that they serve only on a contract basis;

we shall strive for an end to the Army and Navy draft of young people with medical problems;

we shall strive for the adoption in 1994 of a law on alternative service.

Facts and Figures

According to figures from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate for 1993:

The plan for the draft was 90.3 percent fulfilled, which is approximately the level of previous years.

This year it is planned to draft 216,000 people to active military service in Russia (in the Russian Federation Armed Forces, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Border Troops, and so forth).

As of March 1993, 41,000 people had dodged the draft in Russia. The same year 470 people were convicted of draft-dodging and administrative proceedings were instituted against more than 10,000 draft-dodgers.

As of today the Russian Armed Forces are at 58.9 percent of their full strength with soldiers and sailors. In 1993 some 120,000 "contract servicemen" were drafted to the ranks of the Armed Forces in Russia as a whole. In 1994 a Russian Federation presidential edict has given the Defense Ministry permission to draft 150,000 "contract servicemen." Some 20,000 have already been drafted as of today.

Only 16 From Every 100 Being Drafted Into Army

LD2804194594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Only 16 out of every 100 Russian young men aged 18 are called up for army service. In 1988 the figure was 70. All the rest are relieved because of poor health or are deferred. Last year the Russian Army had only half of the prescribed strength. The spring-time call-up is also having problems.

These facts were reported on Thursday at a joint meeting in Moscow of the leaders of the medical service of the Army, the conscription group, the parliamentary committees for defence and health protection, the interior and education ministries and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Participants accounted the current miserable situation with conscription to the actual decline in health standards among young people. Last year 26.4 pct [percent] of young men were relieved of army service on account of poor health. Diseases of internal organs ranked first, mental diseases second. However, speakers felt that the outdated system of medical examination allows to call up actually sick people and simultaneously permits various forms of fraud. The conference formed a working group to draft a plan to improve health care and prepare young people for army service.

Federal Assembly

'Undelivered Speech' Urges Accord Rejection

PM2804135994 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed account of "undelivered speech" by Federation Council Deputy Petr Romanov under the "Talking About the Treaty Aloud and to Yourself" rubric: "Facing Up to Life"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] As we have already reported, the Federation Council approved the Treaty on Social Accord without discussion and instructed Speaker V. Shumeyko to sign it. Deputy Petr Romanov, who voted against, sent his undelivered speech to the editorial office.

The problem of choice has always faced and will always face each and every one of us, and very often we have to choose between loyalty and honor. The ancients used to say: "Loyalty cannot prevail over honor." Unfortunately, we sometimes forget this piece of wisdom, as we have in the Federation Council.

I recall with shame our meeting with the prime minister. Instead of demanding from him an account of what had been done, of what the government intends to work on, and of the help it needs from us, we began vying with one another in expressions of loyal sentiment. First, we spent time deciding, with a most serious expression on our face, where best to seat our cherished guest, then, with utter inappropriateness, we burst out with applause in response to his proposal to abolish public holidays. As if this will solve the problem when the country is already working a three- or four-day week. You get the impression that many of us are more concerned about loyalty to the regime than the honor and dignity of the Federation Council and its accountability to the people and history.

And today, in the process of working on the agreement, you get the impression that we have been away from Russia for a couple of years and that now this treaty is for us the light at the end of the tunnel. But no, these are the lights of an oncoming locomotive, the driving force of which is supplied by the awakened working class and peasantry. In the last century a classic author uttered these remarkable words: Politics is the concentrated expression of economics. I think these words would sound more appropriate now if reversed: "Economics is the concentrated expression of politics." In other words, the economy we have is nothing but the fruit of the political actions of the current leadership of the country. It is now necessary to talk about and include on the agenda the following item: The political crisis of the regime and, as its consequences, the collapse of the economy, the collapse, that is, rather than a temporary stoppage of the economy. We should all appreciate that if the political conditions are not changed, no changes will be achieved in the economy. Therefore we must not sign the treaty because:

first, it brings political stability to the president and government, guarantees of loyalty to them and security, and trust in the authorities;

second, the treaty does not bring economic stability to Russian producers, the regions, and Russia;

third, the president and the executive branch avoid giving any guarantees on their own part.

Such guarantees could be:

a) the swearing of an oath of allegiance to the new Constitution by the president;

b) a clear and unambiguous rejection of any attempts whatsoever to violate the Constitution by the president and government;

c) the consideration by the Federal Assembly and possibly by referendum of the basic principles of the reforms under way with the aim of fashioning a course which would be supported by the overwhelming majority of the population. I would very much like the work of the First Russian Federal Assembly to be remembered by the people in the same way as the reforms of Petr Arkadyevich Stolypin or the results of the postwar restoration of the national economy.

I conclude this speech with the words with which I began it: Loyalty to the regime cannot prevail over honor, especially when it is the honor of the Russian parliament.

Deputy Lays Down Terms for Avoiding 'Civil War'

PM2804141394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

["Abridged Statement" by State Duma Deputy Vladimir Ivanov under the "Talking About the Treaty Aloud and to Yourself" rubric: "They Have Overcome the Country"—last paragraph is conclusion]

[Text] There are cases like ours in world history, where a moratorium on political forces has brought the country a respite by channeling the energy of the masses away from conflict to constructive cooperation.

This is where the similarity ends. Today who in our country, destroyed as it has been by "perestroykas" and tormented by "reform," can guarantee that a political diet will create the climate of unity which, in the opinion of the people who have drawn up the "treaty," is all that the country lacks to complete "reforms"? The word "overcome" predominates in the terminology used by the "great Yeltsin." Semantics reflects his approach: Now that everything has been overcome in the country and a total—economic, ideological, and political—deadlock has been reached, the team of "reformers" are asking for a respite. It is hard to destroy things even in such a huge country as ours. Moreover, once again they are doing things their way, twisting the arm of everyone in succession—political leaders, deputies, trade unions, and the hungry, embittered people.

The concept of a "treaty" requires the interests of all sides to be taken into consideration, while what B.N.'s team is proposing is called capitulation. They are once again trying to upset everything, once again speculating on the "people's needs." But the people need the team of "reformers" to stop mocking the country, it is they who have to surrender. That is what they are doing, but at our expense.

Why should we voluntarily deprive ourselves of political activity for a whole two years when we already lack premises, vehicles, communications, and access to television and radio? Despoiled and without rights we are being deprived of the last, virtually imaginary chance of defending our voters' rights.

Why should Zhirinovskiy and Zyuganov lose prestige? Do they want the false mass media which no one in the country has trusted for a long time now? Should the wave of anger that is threatening to sweep everything aside really be stopped? Even without the "treaty" one of them will occupy the president's post.

Might the "treaty" allow the development of the shattered military-industrial complex, stop the slump, improve the economy, and revive the agricultural sector? No. This marks a breathing space before the country is decisively finished off, an attempt to avoid the storm that will sweep aside the regime. They are unable to introduce a state of emergency regime in proper form, it is therefore being introduced under a different banner, in essence. That is the tactic of fighting on two fronts—fighting the growing political opposition bloc on the one hand and the spontaneous protest of the masses on the other. The protest must be deprived of a leader and personalities and rendered chaotic. It must be discredited by being criminalized in the eyes of society.

That is why the Duma has been harassed for four months: It had to be rendered compliant and tractable. It is meanwhile being said that horse trading is inappropriate and that what is at issue is national calm. It is not only appropriate and essential, since we are not just talking about the people's calm, but ours as well, Ladies and Gentlemen, and the people are already fed up with the graveyard calm.

Nor will a change of leaders stop this: Deprived of one set of leaders they will soon find others who are more decisive and more radical.

In fact the "treaty" boils down to exacerbating the situation, to an attempt to transfer the country's political life to a criminal development scenario since a person can affect the situation in society either politically or criminally and, robbed of political levers, resorts to illegal ones.

We think that the quest for social peace is extremely necessary but that Yeltsin's team should conduct that quest in a real rather than an imaginary political area, honestly, without guile and without shirking. And, who can say, without their leader perhaps. Especially since many people have already realized this and drawn the right conclusions.

We think that fulfillment of the following terms constitutes the social base of a political partnership for signing this "treaty":

1. The return to the State Duma of all the former Supreme Soviet property and all its rights for deputies' full four-year term. The creation of conditions for deputies to take a real part in public life.

2. An end to mass media persecution of all opposition leaders and equal access to radio and television. The opening of banned patriotic press publications.

3. The replacement of the people's most hated ministers with the political leaders of parliamentary factions and the creation of a coalition government of people's confidence.

4. Early presidential elections.

On those terms alone can society arrive at civil peace. Those conditions alone can guarantee calm for the team that has crippled the country. It has no choice: All other options will inevitably bring about civil war and the total annihilation of antipeople forces. Political struggle is a normal civilized form of struggle, so better that than the chaos of all-out, ungovernable fratricide that this "treaty" will inevitably bring about. The situation in the country can only be changed once there has been a change of "reform" course and in the attitude toward political opponents. There is no other way.

After reading out his statement from the rostrum, Deputy Ivanov said indignantly that when it was being xeroxed certain "voluntary censors" had noticeably cut it.

New Faction Registered at State Duma

LD2804161294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—The Russian State Duma registered a new deputy faction on Thursday, the Liberal Democratic Union "December 12."

The faction will have its own office and representatives in the Duma Council.

Under the regulations adopted by the Duma a parliamentary faction has to have at least 35 members to be officially registered. The new faction has 39 deputies, including former members of the reformist Russia's Choice bloc and the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

Budget Committee Suggests Reducing Foreign Loans

LD2804163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The State Duma Committee on Budget, Taxes and Finances considers it necessary to limit Russia's foreign loans in 1994 to 4.7 billion dollars instead of 5.7 billion dollars proposed by the government.

The committee prepared a corresponding draft law and a report on the need to reduce foreign loans.

This year the Russian government intends to repay 4.7 billion dollars of foreign debts. The State Duma Committee believes that the reduction of loans by the same amount would make the size of attracted credits dependent upon the ability of Russia's economy to service the foreign debt.

Russia's foreign debt without taking into account the debt to East European countries and delayed commercial payments exceeded 80 billion dollars by the beginning of 1994. Annual payments which Russia is to make according to the schedule of servicing and repayments of the principal amount of the debt exceeded 20 billion dollars in 1992-1993. Holding talks with the clubs of Russia's creditors allowed it to reduce repayments of the foreign debt to 2 billion dollars in 1992 and 2.2 billion dollars in 1993. The servicing and repayment of the foreign debt in 1994, taking into account the amount delayed from last year, demands the granting of 32 billion dollars.

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Orenburg, Gives Interview

LD2904104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Goncharov]

[Text] Orenburg April 29 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin who arrived in Orenburg on Friday to celebrate the 250th jubilee of the Orenburg region (gubernia in the past), said at the airport to journalists that the government will make payments, first of all, to peasants after the federal budget is approved by parliament.

"Concerns, now experienced by all Russia, are characteristic of the Orenburg region too," he stressed. "Let us try and settle at least some of them," he added.

Journalists welcoming Chernomyrdin at the airport also asked him other questions. They were interested when a package of documents on press support is put into operation and what its essence is.

The premier replied that the government is also interested in this question. He expressed doubt that Russian people need the press and television in such amounts as now. "The state will maintain several newspapers and tv channels," the cabinet head assured.

"However, this is for the time being. Experience will show what to do in future. I'm against commanding the media. The government plans to issue a special decision on questions of the press, which do not brook any delay. The decision will be issued before the adoption of a press law which will be soon approved."

Asked by ITAR-TASS about his attitude to the Russian president's decision to suspend till July the execution of the cabinet's decision on raising customs duties on imports, Chernomyrdin noted: "We postponed this decision ourselves, since we 'outdid' ourselves."

"There are international norms: When changes are made in customs duties, three months are given to conclude new contracts and to establish contacts. We should also abide by this three-month norm by some items."

The premier's trip to the Orenburg region will last three days.

Moscow Mayor Apprehensive on May Day Holiday

LD2904105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Reinforced police squads will patrol Moscow streets during the May Day celebrations, taking into account the last year's deplorable experience, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday.

According to the mayor, he is more worried over "terrorist acts rather than organised actions by gunmen". Luzhkov stressed that "no matter how the situation changes in the capital, the townhall is fully prepared to counter extremists".

The Moscow mayor plans to spend all four off-days at his office.

Moscow Mayor Seeks Right To Retain Some Tax Revenue

PM2804162994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94

[Untitled POSTFACTUM report from the "Events of the Week" roundup—from the FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section page I]

[Text] The Russian Government owes Moscow 126 billion rubles [R]. The failure to pay this money is creating problems for the Moscow Government in paying wages to workers in budget-funded organizations and financing subway construction. A few days ago Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov noted that Moscow is honoring its commitments to the federal budget impeccably, adding that it would be more correct if the city were allowed to retain part of the taxes for itself "instead of transferring them to the federal budget and then waiting for money to come back." Luzhkov asked the tax services to examine this option for collaborating with the federal authorities in the budget sphere.

Capital Government Oversees 'Moscow-City' Project

PM2804133594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Viktor Belikov report: "Saving 'Moscow-City' Project; the Capital's Government Has Taken Over Control of It"]

[Text] There has been a change of leader in the "City" joint-stock company, which is engaged in the construction of the Moscow International Business Center [MIBC] in Presnya—the capital's largest construction project. V. Silin, deputy leader of Moscow's construction department, has become the company's president in place of A. Khazhakyan (who came to the post in 1992 after being managing director of the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange). The former has taken charge of "City's" board of directors. These personnel changes are subject to confirmation at the annual shareholders' meeting 30 April.

The tempting idea of having something akin to New York's Manhattan in the Russian capital was conceived two years ago. Since then an architectural design for the center has come into being, a plan of its transport links has been prepared, and many negotiations have been conducted with possible major foreign investors, of which one has, it seems, agreed to finance phase 1 of the construction operations. And that is all as regards specific results of the activities of the joint-stock company, which has among its shareholders 99 organizations, companies, and other legal entities, as well as more than 17,000 individual share holders.

Evidently, such a slow pace in implementing this project which affects the global prestige of Moscow, its government, and Mayor Yu. Luzhkov personally, provoked the justified concern of the city authorities.

Deputy Minister I. Ordzhonikidze brought the government's concern to the notice of the joint-stock company's board of directors, after which practical conclusions were made—A. Khazhakyan was dismissed.

The creation of MIBC ("Moscow-City") continues to be one of the city's priority programs.

Apart from the construction of a metro line, the clearance of site of the future center, the laying of underground roads, utilities, and main sewers, this work also involves the construction of three buildings. They include an office and hotel complex costing $150 million built by the "Reforma" fund together with foreign partners, a 300-400-room four-star hotel, and an administrative and business block. The city government's patronage will soon be officially recorded in documentary form as a special decree signed by the premier, in which the government's present task is formulated as "participating in the preparation of infrastructure to attract foreign investment."

In other words the city authorities are establishing strict control over the execution of "Moscow-City" project, with a view to there being something to show on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment by as early as fall 1997—the 850th anniversary of the Russian capital.

Tatarstan Opposition Sets Up Anti-Bureaucratic Front

MK2804130094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Tatarstan"]

[Text] Leaders of four public organizations—the Tatar Public Center, the Tatarstan Communist Party, the Republican Party of Tatarstan, and the People's Front of Tatarstan—have announced the creation of a new democratic opposition organization, the Anti-Bureaucratic Front of Tatarstan [AFT]. The front stands for the resignation of the bankrupt Sabirov government, cuts in and the reorganization of the government staff, a merger of the presidential staff with that of the Cabinet of Ministers, the abolition of the posts of vice president and deputy prime ministers, election of all administration chiefs, open decisionmaking by the government (no secrets from the people), the publication of all secret agreements, the freedom of the mass media, and demands that every step, every decision, and every thought of bureaucracy be placed under people's control.

New Border Crossing With PRC To Open in Maritime Kray

OW2904005594 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Another border crossing will be added to the two existing major cargo and passenger crossings at Grodekova and Poltavka in the Maritime Kray. The crossing, to be opened at Turiy Rog settlement in Khankayskiy Rayon, will establish the shortest route to the Chinese city of Mishan for thousands of tourists and businessmen.

The traffic capacity of the new point will be comparatively small—four tourist groups per day. However, according to Aleksandr Berestavov, chairman of the Kray Committee for Tourism, the opening of motor vehicle access across the border will make it easier for many Russians to become acquainted with China.

In turn, tourists from China, whose numbers have risen sharply with the introduction of visa-less exchanges of tourists between the two countries, now have one more window into Russia's Far East.

Attempt To Restore Soviet Rule Fails in Mordovia

MK2804115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Anatoliy Antonov report under the "Circumstances" rubric: "Failed Attempt To Put Soviet Power in Mordovia Together Again"]

[Text] An attempt of sorts to revive Soviet government in Mordovia—a decree of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Mordovia of 11 April 1994 on the so-called "conferences of deputies in the regions"—did not yield the action's organizers the desired results. According to unofficial reports, it was impossible to hold these conferences in any rayon around Mordovia owing to the absence of a quorum. For example, as few as 45 deputies gathered in the Saransk City Soviet whereas a quorum requires 93. Mr. Biryukov, speaker of the Mordovia parliament, decided to take personal part in the restoration of Soviet government in Temnikovskiy Rayon—it is in this rayon that he has the greatest number of like-minded and relatives. The speaker still failed to secure a quorum.

Biryukov's appeal to the rayon's internal affairs department chief to induce the deputies to get together with the help of militia did not help. This time around the militia decided against meddling in politics.

In the meantime, people in Mordovia are awaiting a commission to arrive from Moscow which was created under Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's directive No. 193 RP of 18 April 1994. Composed of representatives of Russia's Justice Ministry, the president's Main Legal Administration, and the president's staff for the work with territories, this commission is to see if the laws and the other legal acts passed in the Republic of Mordovia of late correspond with the Constitution of Russia.

International Affairs

G-7 Asked For $20 Billion in Economic Aid

LD2904104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0639 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 29 TASS—Japan is the first of the world's seven leading industrialized nations to get, ahead of the G-7 summit in Naples, an official document prepared in Kiev, Ukraine, which asks the group of seven countries for massive economic assistance. The document was delivered to Tokyo by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Nikolay Makarevich, who revealed to the press that Ukraine was expecting subsidies amounting to nearly 20 billion dollars.

Informed diplomatic sources told ITAR-TASS that during his Tokyo visit from April 26-28 Makarevich met Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Hiroshi Fukuda and representatives of the ministries of foreign trade and industry. During these first bilateral working consultations the parties discussed aspects of economic aid to Kiev and future bilateral relations.

Tokyo welcomed on the whole Ukraine's intention to open its embassy in Japan, but no specific accords were reached. No specific decision was made concerning President Leonid Kravchuk's visit, which Japan asked to schedule for the beginning of next year because its present diplomatic schedule for this year is overcrowded.

Japan and Ukraine agreed to continue consultations between their foreign ministries and arrange a return visit by the Japanese deputy foreign minister for the end of this or the beginning of next year, diplomatic sources said.

Considerable attention during the Ukrainian deputy minister's visit was drawn to the document, brought by him, concerning economic cooperation between Kiev and the leading industrialized countries. The draft protocol,which is now being circulated to the other members of the groups of seven countries ahead of their July summit in Naples, contains Ukraine's request for major assistance in overcoming its present energy crisis, switching to a market economy and stabilising currency.

Nikolay Makarevich told journalists that according to estimates, Ukraine will need at least 20 billion dollars in subsidies to accomplish its outstanding tasks. This amount includes coverage for the losses Ukraine sustained as a result of U.N. sanctions against Serbia, the cost of freezing the Chernobyl nuclear power station, as well as expenses connected with the withdrawal and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Defense Cooperation Treaty With Estonia Signed

MK2804120094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Valeriy Gromak report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Ukraine May Share Arms With Estonia"]

[Text] Kiev—A meeting was held between the defense ministers Indrek Kannik of Estonia and Vitaliy Radetskyy of Ukraine. A treaty was signed between the military departments of the two countries permitting various forms of cooperation including consultations on questions pertaining to the creation of armed forces, as well as joint actions within the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program. Estonia voiced readiness to buy part of the Ukrainian Army's arms.

Envoy Views Relations With Austria, Russia

WS2804140094 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 6

[Interview with Ukrainian Ambassador to Austria Yuriy Kostenko by Lidiya Yakovenko in Vienna; date not given: "When Russian Envoy Begins To Reprimand an Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian, I Feel I Have To Counter This..."]

[Excerpts]

[Yakovenko] Yuriy Vasylovych, you represent our country not simply in the capital of a European state. Vienna, as everybody knows, is also the center of international diplomacy. A UN mission and other influential international organizations are located here. This is a very important spot to Ukraine. How has the work of the Ukrainian diplomatic corps been developing, and what has already been achieved?

[Kostenko] Yes, you are right. Vienna is of particular importance to Ukraine, simply because the Ukrainian diplomatic representation in international organizations has been located here for 10 years. Thus, after the declaration of independence, the development of diplomatic structures in Vienna was quite different than in capitals of other countries. We had to transform our representation into an embassy smoothly and quietly. This was not an easy task, since Ukraine had virtually been oriented toward multilateral diplomacy until 1992. Bilateral diplomacy had always been Moscow's prerogative. We did not have skilled cadres. For instance, we did not have enough German speaking specialists. On the other hand however, we had a sort of foundation—a small group of personnel which could be trained for bilateral diplomacy. In August 1992, we began by opening our consulate. For Vienna, Austria it was actually the discovery of Ukraine.

Since then, we have managed to establish fairly stable political relations between the two countries.

[Yakovenko] There is an opinion that Austria can become a bridge to the West for Ukraine, and the fact that Ukraine was once a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and a certain interpenetration took place—which helps to achieve mutual understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation—could play a certain role in this. At the same time, Ukrainian businessmen, who are trying to establish contacts with their Western colleagues, are complaining that Western businessmen consider Ukraine one of the most unsuccessful countries among those which rose from the rubble of the Soviet Union. Have you noticed such a mood in Austria?

[Kostenko] The development of economic relations is very complex. When we signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with Austria last year, we expected a breakthrough in this area. Unfortunately, this has not happened. There is indeed this kind of mood that we have mentioned. We are not trusted enough. Our political and economic instability should be blamed for that. Although we have already established about 70 joint venture enterprises, there have not been any serious joint projects that could be considered achievements. We have only been continuing those projects that were developed when Ukraine was a part of the USSR. For example, we are still shipping coal through the Danube for Austria's steel casting industry.

[Yakovenko] Do the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia hinder this business?

[Kostenko] They do very much. The Ukrainian Danube Steamship Company has its office here, and we closely cooperate with it. This is, by the way, one of the few state companies which have their offices in Austria. So, returning to the development of economic relations, we have been trying to obtain a substantial loan from Austria. There was even a moment when the Austrians were ready to grant us such a loan. Over the last six months however, so many prime ministers and deputy prime ministers have been replaced that they have become confused. I do not blame them. They send, for example, a letter to one deputy prime minister, they wait for a response for a month, and when it finally comes, it is signed by another person, whom they do not know.

There are also problems connected with the fact that we have not settled the issue of debts. The debt of the former Soviet Union to tiny Austria amounts to $5 billion. The Austrians have linked the issue of debts to the possibility of receiving new loans, knowing that we do not have funds to repay them.

They also know about another matter. I have had a conversation with one of the leaders of the currently ruling Social Democratic Party. He said the following: "You are not serious when it comes to the issue of debts. You say that you do not have funds to repay them, but we know that you have delivered to South Korea goods we would have bought with pleasure, including reinforced steel and chemicals." Russia, despite its unsettled debts, still receives multibillion loans from tiny Austria. Austrian business is not the only one in Austria. It is a center where many contracts are signed. They grant loans to Russia, because Russia can repay them in gas, oil, or other products for which there is a high demand here. Whereas they are not afraid that the money will be wasted by Russia, our situation is very similar to that.

They can grant a loan only under the government's guarantee. Nevertheless, we have not managed to accomplish anything with Austria in this area. Austrian businessmen are complaining that our people have not yet been accustomed to fulfilling their commitments and developing contacts.

As for science and technology, the situation is more promising here, predominantly because certain politicians and a part of society remember the fact you have mentioned before, and this historic nostalgia helps. For example, at the Ministry of Science and Research headed by Austrian Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek, the so-called stipend system was created three years ago, which gives our specialists the opportunity to come to Austria for training for either two weeks or one year. There are many contacts between institutes. [passage omitted]

[Yakovenko] Yuriy Vasylevych, let us turn to another aspect of your work—as a permanent representative at international organizations. What is currently important to Ukraine in this area?

[Kostenko] In general, for a young state that is currently looking for self-affirmation, all aspects are important. Let us have a look at the participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. At the February session of the IAEA management board (Ukraine is one of the 35 countries which comprise the board), we discussed very acute political questions. One of them, for instance, considered the nuclear potential of North Korea. Ukraine, with its population of 52 million, should have its own stance on every issue, particularly now since we took an important step toward nuclear disarmament, and we intend to sign the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Arms Treaty. The system of guarantees will be developed exactly by the IAEA. Unfortunately, many unflattering opinions have been voiced against this organization over the last few years, because its leadership has not come forward with a clear stance on Chernobyl. Our well known politicians have accused the IAEA of being the world's "nuclear" lobby. Maybe, this is true. But, there are different kinds of lobbies. If a lobby leads to another Chernobyl, I am against such a lobby. If a lobby advocates, however, that 70 percent of energy be produced at safe nuclear reactors, as in France, I support such a lobby.

Ukraine is currently obtaining up to 35 percent of its electricity from five nuclear power plants, including the damaged Chernobyl one. Therefore, it is an issue of national security to receive information from the IAEA, and to ensure safe operation of our 15 power units.

We must establish a national system of inventorying nuclear materials with the help and cooperation of the IAEA. A civilized state should know how many nuclear materials it has, because if this is unknown, the country will be pilfered. Later, it will be a great discredit if someone is caught with a nuclear container in Austria or Germany....

Finally, there is the third aspect of our activities—the participation in the Vienna negotiations of the CSCE. There is a meeting every day. Currently, such vital issues as international peacekeeping operations in Europe are being discussed there. Russia has come forward with claims to the role of a dominant power in our region, as well as to the right to conduct peacekeeping operations on territories of the former USSR.

[Yakovenko] How have relations between Ukrainian diplomats and their Russian colleagues been developing here in Vienna?

[Kostenko] This is a very uneasy topic. As you recall, I have been a diplomat for a long time. I worked for many years in the Soviet Union delegation in Geneva on negotiations on chemical weapons and disarmament. I know many diplomats, and I have a few things to compare. I am now very grateful to Soviet envoys with whom I worked and who taught me a lot. Here, I have to say that, unfortunately, Russia is currently losing the experience of Soviet diplomacy. Talented and reasonable people either have joined other structures or have begun to work for international organizations where they receive better salaries. [passage omitted]

We do not currently have such relations as the ones we had after Ukraine had pronounced its independence. There is a certain alienation between us. This is connected with the fact that we have very different stands on a whole range of issues. This relates not to relations between Kostenko and Popov or Zaytsev (the former is the Russian ambassador to Austria; the latter is Russia's permanent representative at international organizations), but between Russia and Ukraine. We cannot agree (this relates to the CSCE talks) that Russia will play a dominating role on territories of the former USSR. We cannot agree that Russia is assuming a leading role in the CIS. Similar disagreements, and this is connected with my speeches and statements at the talks, repel us from each other.

Everyone understands that Russia, as a nuclear state and the largest republic of the former USSR, whether we want it or not, will play the leading role. The point is, however, that it should not offend others. When a Russian envoy begins to reprimand an Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian, I feel I have to counter this. Sometimes, I try to support my Baltic colleagues, when Russia tries to impose its opinion. It is very good that we have reached consent at the Vienna talks. Either my word or that of my Estonian colleague can block any decision. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

IAEA Stand on Chernobyl Criticized

AU2904105194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Apr 94 p 4

[Oleksiy Breus report: "Calm Is Not Envisaged"]

[Text] **A few days ago, a conference under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] was held in Vienna where representatives of "atomic" countries discussed today's state of safety at atomic electric power plants [AES] using high-power reactors [RBMK], in particular, the Chernobyl Plant. That particular plant was the reason for convening the conference.**

One month earlier, an international group of experts visited the Chernobyl AES to study the safety of the plant's operation. Eight specialists commissioned by the IAEA studied design characteristics of the plant and certain aspects of its operation. The assistant general director of the IAEA for questions of nuclear safety, Morris Rosen, discussed the results of that work with top leaders of Ukraine's State Committee for Atomic Energy and State Atomic Supervision Agency.

Speaking about the meeting a few days latter, chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Atomic Energy M. Umanets said that international experts had expressed certain criticisms regarding the Chernobyl AES, but had not demanded that the operating units be halted. Therefore, the independent expert opinion, which had long been demanded by the public, did not object to the continued operation of the atomic plant. Having referred to the IAEA principled stand in Iraq and Korea, M. Umanets called upon the press to finally exonerate that agency. Perhaps, because he did not yet know about the letter, which would sit on the desk of the Ukrainian president in another hour or two and which would come as an absolute surprise for the leader of Ukraine's atomic department.

In that letter, IAEA General Director Hans Blix told the president about the results of work of the same group of eight experts: Numerous shortcomings have been revealed in the operating units of the Chernobyl AES; the obsolete design of the first unit is particularly alarming. Safety is also affected by the difficulties in the provision of the AES's with spare parts, the departure of skilled personnel, the difficult conditions of work of the personnel, and, in addition to all of these, the state of the "Ukryttya" [Shelter] Facility is deteriorating. In view of the conclusion drawn by specialists to the effect that international safety norms are not adhered to at the Chernobyl AES, H. Blix proposed that a conference of representatives of interested countries be convened in Vienna in order to improve the situation.

Commenting upon that letter, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Atomic Energy N. Nigmatullin called it unobjective. According to him, today, the safety of Chernobyl units is not inferior to that at Russian

AES's using RBMK's, for example, the Kursk plant. This was also known to IAEA experts, just like all those measures taken at the Chernobyl AES for raising its safety. Therefore, if Chernobyl reactors do require the attention of "interested" countries, this must also apply to other RBMK's—Russian and Lithuanian. Accordingly, the attitude of the Vienna conference must be changed. Otherwise, it may harm Ukraine's image. The State Committee for Atomic Energy informed [President] L. Kravchuk about this point of view.

Regarding the Chernobyl AES, in N. Nigmatullin's opinion, it is rather social and psychological and not technological problems that are largely associated with it; also political ones. N. Nigmatullin took the liberty of suggesting that the IAEA conclusions reflected the interests of certain circles in particular countries, which, in this manner, take care of their free market of energy. They simply carry on "their own game," although not always in accordance with the rules of decency.

This political assumption from the lips of the leader of a nonpolitical department would not sound strange, if one recalls that the Chernobyl AES has long become an object of precisely political battles. Isn't it true that, for several years, they have been particularly adversely affecting the plant's safety? However, the IAEA does not mention that fact. It would suffice to picture an operator, who, for a long time, fails to understand what his work is all about—is it for the good of the people or is it treason? If he is capable of alienating himself from external influence, this is by no means better, as there must be a citizen and not an introspective Yoga adept at the control panel of any potentially dangerous installation....

Speaking of operators, it might be relevant to recall that, in addition to the IAEA experts, the EC Commission also sent its group of experts for coordinating international technological assistance to work at Ukrainian AES's. They specialize in training the personnel of AES's operating in Eastern European countries. They studied problems involved in our system for training operators and Ukraine's needs in that sphere. After that, on 1 April [1994], at a meeting with Ukrainian atomic specialists, the extent of methodological and technological assistance on the part of the EC Commission to all Ukrainian AES's was discussed. Not a single word on the inexpediency of expenditure for the Chernobyl AES or on boycotting it was uttered. When the chairman at the meeting, head of the group of experts Mr. Defrenn [name as transliterated] gave the floor to IAEA representative A. Kosilov of Russia, thorough procedural actions were taken, to be on the safe side, to place A. Kosilov's speech outside the framework of the meeting (despite that, A. Kosilov also spoke about assisting the AES's in raising their safety, but on the part of the IAEA, which allocates an annual sum of about $50 million for that). Well, even abroad, opinions on the Chernobyl AES safety differ. However, there, just as in our country, there also exist extreme opinions.

This was confirmed at the beginning of April by the visit to Ukraine of representatives of the U.S. Department of Power Engineering and the Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation who studied problems of our power engineering. It seems that they found the safety of the Chernobyl units to be, perhaps, the most important problem and stated that the Chernobyl Plant needed to be closed down in the very near future. Vice Premier V. Shmarov remarked that it was first necessary to introduce new power engineering capacities to compensate for closing down the Chernobyl Plant. Taking into account Ukraine's electric energy needs, the Americans agreed with his statement without, however, giving up the idea of closing down the Chernobyl units. Incidentally, from the point of view of acquiring a free market of energy, such a position differs little from the demand that the Chernobyl AES be closed down immediately....

In short, as soon as passions around the operation of the Chernobyl AES subsided in Ukraine, they started flaring up abroad. It might be good, had there been good intentions behind it. The results of the Vienna conference also indicate that they will not be final. The question of whether the measures for raising the RBMK safety really prevail over those of its shortcomings that cannot be eliminated still remains unsolved abroad.

However, there is nothing new about the fact that these reactors were not only created in conformity with the laws of nuclear, but also of "political" physics. It is not only technological decisions that may be listed among the causes of the catastrophe. However, the Chernobyl AES was "revived," first and foremost, by political decisions, when specialists found it expedient to commission new atomic units, in particular, the fifth Chernobyl power unit. Because we turned out to have too many specialists in that "political" physics.

In all probability, their number has not decreased in the new parliament. It is unlikely that we will get fast and entirely independent expert opinion from abroad, as they have their own interests, which are not always common to all of mankind. Therefore, despite the decision adopted by the parliament and the time that has passed since then, it would be futile to expect calm around the operation of the Chernobyl AES. Perhaps, this will continue for as long as the plant operates.

Edict on Elimination of Chernobyl Consequences

AU2804152094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Apr 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Directive on Urgent Measures for Eliminating the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe in Kiev Oblast's Polissya Rayon" issued in Kiev on 22 Apr]

[Text] 1. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must see to it that, until 1 September 1995, residents be evacuated from the populated areas of Kiev Oblast's Polissya Rayon that are categorized as zones of unquestionable (mandatory) evacuation. To do so, it is necessary, by 1

May 1994, to find a possibility for allocating additional capital amounting to 1 trillion karbovantsi from the Fund For Carrying Out Measures on Eliminating the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe and Social Protection of the Population in 1994 to the Kiev Oblast State Administration for building housing;

—with the participation of the Kiev Oblast State Administration, to take urgent measures for a radical improvement of the material and technological provision of medical and educational institutions and for establishing telephone communications and vehicle traffic between the populated areas of Polissya Rayon and Kiev;

—to elaborate and adopt, by 1 July 1994, a separate program for eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in the populated areas of Polissya Rayon from which residents are not evacuated;

—to submit, by 1 July 1994, for the consideration of Ukraine's Supreme Council, proposals on the creation of a single body for managing exclusion zones and for unquestionable (mandatory) evacuation, as well as on placing those citizens who had, on the day of the accident, permanently resided and continue to reside and work in populated areas situated in the zone of unquestionable (mandatory) evacuation, into category two of the participants in the liquidation of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station [AES].

2. Ukraine's Ministry for Issues of Protection of the Population from the Consequences of the Accident at the Chernobyl AES, with the participation of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences, Ukraine's Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs, and the Kiev Oblast State Administration, must submit, by 1 July 1994, for the consideration of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers the following: — proposals on the procedure of using land in Polissya Rayon, proceeding from the intensity of radioactive contamination, the fertility of the soils, the demographic situation, and the production costs and demand for the rayon's produce;

—on the expedience of preserving and maintaining buildings and structures, as well as on the further utilization of land in the exclusion zone.

3. To draw the attention of Ukraine's Minister of Agriculture and Foodstuffs Yu. Karasyk to the unsatisfactory fulfillment of Article 6 of Ukrainian Presidential Edict No. 348 of 21 August 1993 "On Additional Measures Regarding the Elimination of the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe" in what concerns the organization and control over the supply of clean foodstuffs to those zones that have been affected by the catastrophe at the Chernobyl AES and to oblige him to eradicate the existing shortcomings as soon as possible.

4. The State Control and Auditing Service at Ukraine's Ministry of Finance and Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs must, by 15 June 1994, carry out an inspection of the utilization in 1992-94 of the funds that were allocated for the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe and submit the materials of the inspection to the Ukrainian Presidential Administration.

Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk
Kiev, 22 April 1994

Kravchuk's Stance on Presidential Elections

LD2804193994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk visited two international exhibitions on 28 April, arranged on the grounds of the National Exhibitions Center—INMED-94 and CONSIMED-94. The head of state paid considerable attention to goods manufactured by Ukrainian enterprises participating in the exhibitions and noted that they were making significant efforts to represent Ukraine worthily worldwide.

Journalists asked the head of state to comment on some aspects of political life in Ukraine. He was asked, in particular, to make more specific his stance on the upcoming presidential election, which is known, as well as to state what the president would do if the new parliament disagreed with his arguments. Kravchuk said the following:

[Begin Kravchuk recording] First, you do not know my whole position. I always emphasize the following: No matter what our assessment of the situation in Ukraine is at present—either mild or strong—there is constitutional chaos and constitutional crisis, which is a fact because Ukraine is perhaps the only former Soviet Union state that has not adopted its constitution or formed new real bodies of judicial power in four years—i.e., let us say, any branches of power. Even Belarus, it seems, has already finished recently and has adopted a Constitution. Belarus is holding elections after this, with the structure of power, branches of power, and system of power having been determined expressly and clearly at the constitutional level. We, unfortunately, have not gotten this far.

We have been busy all the time but have never gone all the way. We did not finalize the issue of a local executive power at a specific time in the past. We formed presidential structures but also began granting executive powers to representative bodies. Thus, instead of, let us say, softer, gradual transition from diarchy to the centralization of, shall we say, executive power, we have constantly been causing diarchy to worsen.

Now, if you are carefully following speeches, you can hear the accents and voices: Power must be in one pair of hands. This is so. Let me raise the question, however: Where exactly in one pair of hands? If it is Kiev, one can assume, for instance, that executive power is transferred to one pair of hands, either to the president or to the Cabinet of Ministers. To do this, however, changes to the

Constitution should be made. Power in one pair of hands in Kiev, however, does not at all mean that it is in one pair of hands in Ukraine, because what is being proposed now—forming power at the regional level—in villages, towns, cities, rayons, and oblasts—is on no account taken care of by the argument or the formula of power in one pair of hands. Power will be in a hundred pairs of hands. Whereas power would be in one pair of hands in Kiev, there once again would be no vertical structure of power locally, and once again there would not be what we have wanted to achieve.

So, the interesting thing is this: If the president has the whole of power, (?himself being in Kiev) as some propose, this now sounds more like a presidential republic. But where? At the center. What kind of power is there locally? It is representative, soviet. Once again, the diarchy would be laid, which is exactly what all of us are saying.

That is why this is exactly what I am talking about: To begin with, one should make a decision with regard to these problems, make a decision at the constitutional level. When I am talking about elections and when I am saying that I will ask the new parliament to make a decision, it is not that I would like to shift responsibility to someone else.

I would only like the new parliament to confirm whether it agrees with what we have done over the past four years. I have in mind the Supreme Council, and not only the Supreme Council but the executive structures as well. I do not remove the responsibility from anyone, for it dots the i's and crosses the t's and says that we have to begin, to get down to the final solution of this issue by means of the election, having formed all the institutions at the constitutional level or at the level of some law on power.

We have to begin the adoption of laws because the following situation may arise, which I have spoken about more than once: The president is elected according to this law, and he is the head of state and the head of the executive power, and the power structures are not determined. Everything will begin all over again.

Well, look at our Constitution. Take Article 97 of the Constitution and Article 114—two articles only, to say nothing about the other articles—and you will see nothing there but contradictions and discrepancies. That is a fact. Therefore, I appeal to the new Supreme Council with a proposal to consider all this. It will be its right, its power. I am not encroaching on anyone's powers—this is clear—to make its final decision and have its say, because the 12th Supreme Council has already passed on the responsibility, and this Supreme Council is assuming it. This is how it should do this. Such is my stand. I hope that this is a normal stand, that it complies with all the norms of legislation and the creation of a law-governed state. If the Supreme Council fails to confirm or, for example, confirms the decision of the old Supreme Council, it will thus again initiate this chaos. In that chaos, it will be necessary to make decisions concerning both the presidential election and the election to the local bodies of power. I will also have to make a decision. Before the Supreme Council holds its session, I am following the road of law, legitimacy, and observance of the Constitution. If this is absent, I also have the right as the president now to make a decision concerning the election. That is to say, I have not yet made a decision before the Supreme Council session. I will make a decision after the Supreme Council session. [end recording]

Deputies Appeal to Suspend Presidential Elections

LD2804160794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The newly-elected people's deputies of Ukraine have appealed to the people and the president of Ukraine. The appeal reads as follows:

The election to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, despite various pessimistic forecasts, took place in the overwhelming majority of the constituencies. This is evidence of the growing political consciousness of the citizens of Ukraine. Their faith makes us, people's deputies of Ukraine, especially responsible before the people. The new Supreme Council is called to make decisive steps that would change the state of affairs for the better, because the situation that took shape in our country is a crisis situation.

Taking into account the fact that the new Supreme Council will assume plenary powers in one month's time only, and time is pressing, we appeal to the people of Ukraine and all the people's deputies in this critical moment to estimate the seriousness of the political situation and its possible consequences.

We call on the president of Ukraine to suspend, within the framework of his plenary powers, the effect of Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine on the early election of the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the president of Ukraine of 24 September 1993, and the effect of Article 2 of the Supreme Council resolution of 3 February this year on enforcing the Law of Ukraine on the formation of local bodies of power and self-government, until the new Constitution of Ukraine is adopted.

We are convinced, says the appeal, that such a step is utterly necessary in the interests of the state and the people of Ukraine.

One hundred and twenty people's deputies of Ukraine from 20 oblasts and the Crimea Republic signed the appeal.

Leaders Discuss Plans, Presidential Elections

WS2704135794 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Svitlana Synyakova: "Levko Lukyanenko: 'Neither I Nor Chornovil Have a Chance'"]

[Text] This is the conclusion made by the chairman of the Ukraine Democratic Association at the news conference held on 21 April. According to Lukyanenko, the current alignment of forces in Ukraine provides no grounds for illusions. The nine years of national democrats' activities did not change much—the people are scared by the nomenklatura. Some time ago, there was hope that the democrats would unite during the presidential elections and nominate one candidate, namely [former Defense Minister] Kostyantyn Morozov. However this time Levko Lukyanenko voiced his reservations against General Morozov. He believes that the nomenklatura throughout Ukraine will rise as one man against this candidate, as it happened in the Artemivskyy constituency No.1 during the spring legislative elections.

Incidentally, Kostyantyn Morozov himself does not believe that he had irrevocably lost the legislative elections. Both he and his team demand that the results of the elections in that constituency be declared invalid. They have handed over to the Central Electoral Committee an appropriate motion and a number of documents testifying to numerous violations of the electoral law. However, the general is waging the war for the restoration of justice without any party's assistance. He tends to underline this because, according to him, it is still unclear what political forces fought against him in the electoral district. General Morozov pointed out that he would treat the proposal to take part in presidential elections only provided that it is backed by all democratic forces. This would be an important step toward consolidation of democrats, while the election itself would either bring about a victory or the forming of a powerful opposition.

Thus far, democrats have only demonstrated unity in ignoring presidential elections. According to Levko Lukyanenko, the democrats will launch a campaign against Leonid Kuchma, Oleksandr Morozov, and Petro Symonenko, rather than back any one candidate. Worldwide Coordinating Council Chairman Ivan Drach does not rule out that we will have to choose between Moroz and Kuchma. It should be pointed out that Drach did not take part in either legislative or any other elections this time, and is not going to do this. He explains that he has enough possibilities to be heard, while preference should be given to young politicians. This is just: New times demand new people.

Meanwhile, higher echelons demonstrate a wish to preserve the status quo. Perhaps this is why Oles Shevchenko, Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] deputy chairman, asked the reporters to be patient, refrain from discussing the presidential election and wait until 25 April.

Other symptomatic news: We were not invited to attend the URP congress scheduled to start on 23 April. Rumors have it that the congress will be held behind closed doors and not all the members of the URP leadership know where. This is hard to believe. It will be even harder to believe in what will be said at the news conference on the results of the congress.

Crimean Vice Premier on Economic Situation

MK2804121094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Yevgeniy Saburov, vice premier of the Crimea government, by Vladimir Pasyakin in the "Topical Issue" column: "Today Crimea Is Reminiscent of a Sinking Ship"—in Sevastopol, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Pasyakin] How is the formation of the Crimean Cabinet of Ministers proceeding?

[Saburov] As for the government, there is one big difficulty here. We may differ in our attitude to the "empire" but it needs to be said that it had one very unpleasant quality: The center worked like a vacuum cleaner. If an intelligent specialist appeared somewhere in the provinces, he soon ended up in Moscow. Therefore I have been confronted with the task of attracting good cadres.

For instance, Economy Minister Andrey Vasilyevich Chernyavskiy is one of the best forecasters in Russia. The economic analysis he has provided throughout the entire course of reform is valued very highly. Lyudmila Mikhaylovna Zaytseva—a fairly prominent Russian economist, who has dealt with public finances—in other words, what in socialist jargon was called the social sphere—has agreed to become finance minister. [passage omitted]

[Pasyakin] How do you relate to the fact that the Ukrainian president's representative has been sent to Crimea? After all, his emergence means effectively the formation of a third branch of power.

[Saburov] The current situation in Crimea is absolutely fantastic. Elections have been held; a legitimate head of the executive branch has been elected; and after all this a Ukrainian presidential representative is appointed.... This is legal nonsense. If he is the executive branch, then apparently the results of the elections in Crimea are not recognized.

[Pasyakin] What is the situation in Crimea at present? What is your action program for the near future?

[Saburov] Crimea is currently reminiscent of a sinking ship. The economic reform program provides for improving financial relations with Russia, promoting banking, elaborating an optimal privatization program, revising the tax system, attracting foreign investors, and so forth. But for economic reform to be successful, a minimum favorable political climate is needed. The complicated situation in Crimea is a serious obstacle to reform.

[Pasyakin] Presumably, pursuing unorthodox economic reform in Crimea calls for certain boldness?

[Saburov] We shall have to resort to unpopular measures to lead the economy out of the deadlock. This will naturally cause discontent. Yet they cannot be rejected for this reason only. It is enough to recall Ludwig Erhard, the classic example of brilliant reform in post-war Germany. Everybody criticized him but he did not turn off his path.

Crimean Deputy Premier on Economic, Political Issues

LD2804221294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—Yevgeny Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Crimea Republic, recently gave assurances in an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent that it is not the policy of either the Crimean or Ukrainian leadership that threatens most of all the practical implementation of his concept of reforming the economy, but it is the "fear of unpopular methods with which the people are filled."

"I sensed the same fear during the meeting with Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev, and this is very dangerous. I warned him that I could not coordinate my economic actions with the incompetent people who led Ukraine to such a state. I know that Yukhym Zvyahilskyy is not a supporter of my economic concept and will never become one. This is why I asked Kravchuk to check the observance of the laws of Ukraine that delimit the powers of Ukraine and Crimea," he said.

Replying to a question on the possible time of introducing the reforms in compliance with the decrees, Saburov said that he did not dare to affirm when these would get under way because they touch upon many structures in Ukraine, the National Bank in particular. Meanwhile, to implement the decrees on currency regulation and on banking activity, permission is necessary to licence the activity of not only Ukrainian banks but foreign banks as well.

Saburov reported that he was not yet familiarized with the economic programs of Ukrainian economists, but "there will be no problems" as far as the coordination of actions with the future Government of Ukraine is concerned, "if the sides abide by the laws on the delimitation of powers and coordinate their actions on this very basis".

The Crimean deputy prime minister resolutely rejected any connection between the introduction of economic reforms and the political situation on the peninsula. In his opinion, the mass media unjustly assessed "the fuss in high places during the election campaign" as political instability in Crimea. "It is normal for politicians to win over to their side. I believe that the tragic nature of the situation in Crimea is far-fetched in many respects. There is no Abkhazia here," he assured, and also emphasized the "gross violations by Ukraine of its own law on the delimitation of powers between Ukraine and the Crimea Republic, according to which all economic activity, including the signing of international agreements, is the prerogative of Crimea."

Saburov spoke out for the necessity of setting up joint working groups of Ukraine and Crimea to conduct negotiations and work out the documents acceptable to both sides, "as this has been done by Russia and Tatarstan," and to search for a compromise, which "always requires a certain amount of courage."

In reply to the question, "Who would you like to see as the president of Ukraine?", Saburov said that he had seen neither worthy politicians nor appropriate economic programs at the election in Ukraine."

"They were blaming Russia, although one could at least see the differences between political forces there. As far as Ukraine is concerned, political life here is in embryonic state," he said.

In Saburov's opinion, Leonid Kuchma and "insignificant, little-known persons, who represented the interregional Bloc of Reforms, gained victory only because they had a certain program and people were voting for it."

Crimea's New Finance Minister Interviewed

PM2804132194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Crimean Minister of Finance Lyudmila Zaytseva by Irina Karpenko; place and date not given: "Will This Corner of Paradise Become Heaven on Earth? ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's Observer Irina Karpenko Converses with Crimean Minister of Finance Lyudmila Zaytseva"]

[Text] Crimea's president has issued an edict appointing Lyudmila Zaytseva the republic's minister of finance. Lyudmila Mikhaylovna is a mathematician by training, but has worked as a professional economist for over 20 years. She participated in the elaboration of the program of Russia's economic development. Before her new appointment she was in charge of the Russian Federation Government's Center for Information and Social Technologies Sector for Financing the Non-Production Sphere. She has written articles on topical problems for our newspaper, and promised to give ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI her first interview as minister of finance.

[Karpenko] This is nice, Lyudmila Mikhaylovna, you have kept your promise. And a finance minister's promise carries quite some weight. Congratulations on your appointment. But are you not afraid? What is the Crimea's current financial and economic situation? What is the status of the coupon, the ruble, and the dollar?

[Zaytseva] As regards being afraid—yes and no.... In for a penny, in for a pound. Now that I have been appointed, there is no point worrying about it, I have to get down to work. As for the Crimea's financial and economic situation, it is the same old story. Russia, Ukraine, and the Crimea all face the same problems.

But it goes without saying that the Crimea's economic situation is largely dependent on Ukraine's political and economic course. This must be borne in mind, and so must the fact that the majority of our enterprises are geared to either delivering their output to Russia or purchasing components from Russia. Thus, Russia's economic role in the Crimea is also highly significant.

Turning to the coupon's rate of exchange against the ruble and the dollar (and the coupon is now recognized as the sole legitimate means of payment and is accepted without restrictions throughout the Crimea), it is obvious that here too we are most strongly dependent on Ukraine's policy. And the dollar's rate of exchange in the Crimea is actually tied in with the ruble-dollar rate of exchange.

[Karpenko] Does this mean that your hands are absolutely tied as regards your own actions, and that the government's original program for the Crimea's economic development would be pointless? Would it not be simpler not to "rush in where angels fear to tread" and cope with events as they develop?

[Zaytseva] No. The external conditions in which we exist have to be taken into account, but this does not mean that we will not pursue our own economic policy. We also have the legal basis for this. An edict by the president of Ukraine in 1993 granted the republic the broadest powers in the sphere of financial, budget, currency, and credit relations. This enables us to transform shortcomings into assets and utilize the Crimea's unique geographical and natural position and its agricultural and industrial potential which must be made to work efficiently for the Crimeans' benefit.

[Karpenko] So, how will your program differ from Ukraine's program of sluggish reforms or from Russia's stunningly bogged down reforms?

[Zaytseva] Of course, we are in a much more advantageous position than those who launched their reforms in 1991. Unfortunately, we are learning from mistakes. There is no doubt that Russia's experience of reforms will be taken into account. Even in the Crimea—we are, after all, not starting altogether from scratch—market processes are already under way. But the strength of the state's impact on economic processes, and consequently the degree of the economy's manageability, is much greater here than in Russia. This is a more advantageous situation, and we must exploit it.

We are choosing a softer option of reforms. We will, without any question, take into account the negative experience of the taxation burden. Incidentally, taxes in Ukraine are much higher than in Russia. Therefore, the first avenue of our economic policy will be to reduce the tax burden and cut the amount of taxes. We intend to increase budget revenue by increasing the number of subjects of economic activity. The second, and equally important, avenue is the social orientation of financial policy. Thus, we have taken the risk of lifting restrictions on the consumption fund. Such restrictions exist both in Ukraine and in Russia. We in the Crimea have decided that there is no need to impose restrictions on the wages fund. And this principle has already been implemented.

[Karpenko] Are you not afraid that this might lead to higher inflation?

[Zaytseva] The point is that the Crimeans' wages today are very low—600,000 coupons on average (at the rate of 1 ruble to 22 coupons), while food prices are only one-half of what they are in Russia. If we continue along the path of curbing wages, we will only aggravate the situation: Our Crimeans will be simply unable to buy the output they themselves produce. And this means that we will strangle our own agriculture and industry with our own hands. Boosting the population's purchasing power, and simply making people's life easier—this is one of the first steps. The bread and milk problem will also have to be solved. Prices of these categories of produce have hitherto been artificially held back in the republic. Subsidies are already greater than costs. We appear to be helping the Crimeans, bit at the same time we are also feeding all the tourists, whose numbers in 1993 equaled those of the Crimea's population. We cannot yet afford such generosity. Would it not be better to cut the subsidies and channel the funds thus released directly in the Crimean residents' pockets by raising pensions, allowances, wages....

As regards the budget and inflation.... During the great depression, U.S. President Roosevelt said that a balanced budget is a crime against the people. I regret the fact that the Crimea does not have the power to issue its own currency. A deficit-free budget must not be a dogma. Inflation will be pumped across to us from the mainland—from Ukraine, from Russia. Imagine a tiny ship in a stormy sea. How can the ship's helmsman influence the elements, does the strength of the wind or the height of the waves depend on him? We can only sail with the wind, steer the ship so as to eventually reach the promised shore.

[Karpenko] Nonetheless, you are probably feeling the temptations facing all financiers: Cut the budget deficit and solve the most acute production problems by harsh savings in the so-called budget-funded sphere, in other words at the expense of science, culture, education....

[Zaytseva] There can be no argument: The expenditure of state funds must be very strictly monitored. But savings for savings' sake—in other words cutbacks in the financing of science, culture, education, health care—this is a policy which has no right to exist. But the whole point is that it is impossible to look at only one aspect of the problem. After all, if we leave the situation as it is today and budget revenues are reduced, we will have to reduce budget appropriations. Therefore, there is only one way out: Channel all our efforts into ensuring a boost of the economy, which will lead to an inflow of budget appropriations. The temptation will simply vanish then.

[Karpenko] But life is life.... Which of the factors capable of hindering Crimea's successful reform do you consider to be the most dangerous: The political ones, or Ukraine's dispute with Russia over the Black Sea Fleet, or the criminal forces?

[Zaytseva] I hope that we will have normal relations with the Ukrainian authorities. Speaking about the domestic situation, I cannot yet see any serious forces which would not be interested in improving the Crimea's economic situation.

Of course we are worried about the Black Sea Fleet's future, but this question must be resolved in a civilized manner. Both Russia and Ukraine will have to pay the Crimea for the deployment of military installations since, under the law on the delimitation of powers between Ukraine and the Crimea, the land is the republic's property. The Crimean budget was supplemented from this source in 1991, even though to an insignificant extent. In 1992, on the Crimean Supreme Council's initiative, military units were granted preferential treatment until 1 January 1994. But the deadline has expired and no payments have been received. Thus, this issue will have to be revisited.

There is something else that is worrying: As a result of Ukraine's harsh economic measures, and for self-preservation's sake, a series of our enterprises were forced to seek roundabout ways to, for example, "modify" the coupon's extremely low rate of exchange against the ruble and the dollar. We ought to make sure that nonpayment of taxes and the utilization of semilegal structures become more disadvantageous and dangerous than conducting business honestly.

[Karpenko] The Crimea has always been perceived as a corner of paradise, and was dubbed a sanatorium in Soviet times. Could the Crimea's recreational facilities yield high revenues?

[Zaytseva] Very high. This is how it should be, but so far this contribution is far below what is desirable. It is our strategic goal to substantially increase it. Of course, this needs political stability in the first place. I would like to take advantage of this occasion and say that the political situation in our country is calm now, any comparisons of the Crimea with Karabakh or the Dniester Region are totally out of order—there is no need to scare people off. Therefore, be not afraid to come on vacation to the Crimea.

Unfortunately, by no means all people in Ukraine or Russia can afford such a trip. Thus, we are vitally interested in seeing that all people in Ukraine, in Russia, and in all other CIS countries live in peace and tranquility, but primarily the Crimeans....

[Karpenko] Does all you have said mean that it is still possible to build a more or less prosperous life in a given region on its own?

[Zaytseva] We hope so. Provided the politicians and the powers that be do not mess things up.... We all should act with greater wisdom.

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Amends Tax Laws in Line With Monetary Merger

WS2904112194 Minsk RID in Russian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by Yuriy Leshkevich: "Belarus 'Cleans Up' Legislation"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During its session yesterday, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet also adopted a number of resolutions which bring Belarusian legislation in line with that of Russia, as is required by provisions of the monetary merger agreement between the two states. In particular, the law "On Export and Import Tax" was abolished; from 1 May 1994 to 1 January 1996 (until the expiration of Russia's customs tariff on exports), a temporary customs tariff is being introduced. Changes were also introduced to legislative acts concerning taxation. In the first place, they concern tax policy toward facilities used by Russian strategic troops deployed on Belarusian soil.

Supreme Soviet Elects Constitutional Court

WS2804164194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Excerpts] Today, at the beginning of the Supreme Soviet session, secret voting for candidates to the Constitutional Court was held. The candidacies were put forward at the evening plenary session yesterday. Ten were listed. After the speeches in the traditional miscellaneous section on the agenda, people's deputies conducted the secret voting, electing the following members of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus: Vasilevich, Padhrusha, Pastukhow, Serada, Fadzeyew, Filipchyk, Khoma, Tsikhinya, and Tsishkevich. Immediately, in the session hall, the newly elected judges were sworn in. [passage omitted including the act of swearing and speaker's congratulations]

We, the journalists, add our congratulations to all those voiced in the session hall. I congratulate Valeryy Ryhoryevich Tsikhinya: Valeryy Ryhoryevich, please accept my warmest congratulations on your election to the Constitutional Court.

[Begin recording] [Tsikhinya in Russian] Thank you for your congratulations. I feel that the Supreme Soviet has done me a great honor today. I will try to justify the Supreme Soviet's trust.

[Rudkowski] With what will the Constitutional Court begin its work?

[Tsikhinya] First of all, we have to implement the adopted law on the Constitutional Court by working out a statute of the Constitutional Court. We have no right to begin our work without this statute. Therefore, a month after electing the Constitutional Court—and it was elected today in its competent body—we have to work out and adopt the statute of Constitutional Court proceedings as well as to resolve all other questions stemming from the law on the Constitutional Court.

[Rudkowski] As is known, the chairman of the Constitutional Court will be elected by our president [pauses].

[Tsikhinya] I cannot fully agree with you. Why? Because the chairman of the Constitutional Court is elected not by the president, but by the Supreme Soviet at the president's recommendation. That is, the president may propose a chairman from this body of judges, or propose a new candidate for the Supreme Soviet to elect him or her as head of the Constitutional Court.

[Rudkowski] We know what the fate was of Russia's Constitutional Court. There were very difficult political moments there. Can the same situation take place in Belarus?

[Tsikhinya] Prognosticating is a very hard task. Nonetheless, I will say that we are not going to play politics, because political issues should be resolved by political means, while juridical ones should be resolved with the help of the law. Therefore, beginning today, I suspend my membership in the Party of Communists of Belarus and do not intend to join any social organizations which pursue political goals. This is demanded by the law on the Constitutional Court. My only superior will be the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus in force in 1994.

[Rudkowski] God bless you. I wish you every success.

[Tsikhinya] Thank you. [end recording]

This way the extraordinary—14th—Supreme Soviet session closed its work.

Publishing of Lead Papers To Be Halted 29 Apr

WS2804144494 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1240 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Today, a number of Belarusian newspapers have published an open letter to the readers signed by the chief editors of such leading Belarusian newspapers as NARODNAYA GAZETA, ZVYAZDA, and SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA. "The Belarusian press is on the brink of disaster," the letter reads. "Expenditures for publishing a large-circulation newspaper amount to 1 billion [not further specified] a week. Funds coming from subscription fees will be enough for the next few days. ...Neither advertisement nor other forms of commercial operations, with which editorial boards have been forced to deal, will ensure further existence of the press." Beginning 29 April, as the letter points out, publication of newspapers will be halted, except for the 1 and 9 May issues which will be devoted to Victory Day. "Although this is not a strike," the authors note, "there are grounds to hold one. ...The editorial boards are ready to resume publishing as soon as a solution to the current deadlock is found."

Moldova

Snegur, Dniester's Smirnov Sign Joint Communique

LD2804162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1513 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 28 Apr—Meeting near Tiraspol, the leaders of Moldavia [Moldova] and the leaders of the Dniester region today confirmed their adherence to negotiated forms of resolving the conflict in the Dniester left-bank districts. The outcome of their talks was a communique signed by Moldavian President Mircea Snegur and the leader of the Dniester region Igor Smirnov.

The document emphasizes that a new socio-political situation has been created in Moldavia. This situation is a "serious prerequisite for a successful resolution of the Dniester region crisis by negotiations and in accordance with the interests of the entire people."

The sides pledged to take into consideration at the talks the recommendations on a settlement to the conflict that were prepared by the CSCE mission and the proposals of the Russian Federation. Yesterday, the Russian president's representative Vladlen Vasev, who took part in the talks, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the proposals of Russia, which is acting as mediator in the talks between Kishinev and Tiraspol, are very close to the CSCE's recommendations. They propose to grant the Dniester region a special legal status, broad self-administration and economic independence within the framework of a unified Moldavia, as well as rights to self-determination in the event of Moldavia's loss of statehood.

Today the sides agreed without delay and without any preconditions to begin talks, remove barriers in the way of the normal implementation of economic and socio-cultural ties and to ensure their restoration and development. They agreed on the need to determine the Dniester region's status under state law, the stage-by-stage establishment and implementation of state-law relations, the delegation and demarcation of the powers of the sides and the creation of a system of mutual guarantees.

Taking part in the meeting were Petr Luchinskiy, the Moldavian parliamentary chairman; Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli; Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester region Supreme Soviet, and Richard Samuel, the head of the CSCE mission in Kishinev.

Delegation Fails To Leave for NATO Meeting

AU2904081494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2018 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/4/1994—The military delegation of the Republic of Moldova, which had been invited to today's reunion of the heads of major general staffs of NATO countries and partner states, did not leave for Brussels, announced to BASA informed sources from the Minister of Defence (MD) from Chisinau. Anatol Cosciug, the chief of the military policy and treaties section of the MD of Moldova, said that the fact that the Moldovan delegation did not attend the reunion in Brussels is not connected with the refusal of Russia to sign the "Partnership for Peace" NATO program. Cosciug, excluding any political aspect, indicated that the Embassy of Belgium in Moscow didn't manage to issue the necessary visas. The Moldovan delegation was to be headed by Pavel Chirau, the chief of the General Staff of the Military Forces of Moldova.

Ambassador to Moscow Resigns

AU2904083994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2018 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/4/1994—Yesterday the ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Moscow, Anatol Taran, submitted his resignation. Taran declared to BASA that until President Mircea Snegur signs the order accepting his resignation, diplomatic ethics do not allow him to present details concerning the reasons of his request. Asked if he was sure that Snegur will accept his resignation, Taran said it was highly probable; in case of rejection he intends to insist upon acceptance. According to Taran, after the Easter holidays, during which he intends to visit to take his leave of the president, government and colleagues from the diplomatic corps accredited in the Russian Federation; he will then return to Chisinau. Informed sources from Chisinau announced to BASA that a possible candidate for the resigned post would be Grigore Eremei, current ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Minsk.

New Deputy Ministers, Department Heads Appointed

AU2904083894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2018 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/4/1994—Today, the Moldovan Government held an organizational session presided by Premier Andrei Sangheli, told BASA Ion Sofronie, government spokesman. Gheorghe Gusac, minister of state, presented the list of vice ministers and department heads. The following persons were appointed as general directors: Valeriu Cebotari at the Architecture and Construction Department, Gheorghe Hioar at the Customs Inspection Department, Mihail Cibotaru at the Department of Energetics, Energy Resources and Fuel, Gheorghe Opera at the Trade Standards, Metrology and Technical Supervision and Sergiu (Fandofan) at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. The Departments of Youth and Sport and National Relations have as yet no general directors. The following prime vice ministers and vice ministers were entitled: Ion Cebuc, Anatol (Gudm) and Andrei Cheptine at the Economics Ministry; Alexei (Cemrtan), Lidia (Guu), Nicolae Luchian and Valentina Badrajan at the Finance Ministry; Andrei Cucu and Zosim Bodiu at the Industry Ministry; Ion Bulgac, Vitalie Slipenchi and Ion Palli at the Information Ministry; Eugenia Mihailov, Valerian Revenco and Ion Preguza at the Ministry of Labour and Social and Family Protection; Nicolae Dolghii, Petru Chimirciuc and Mihail Magdei at the Health Ministry; Simion Mustea and Ion Constandogio at the Education Ministry; Ion Puraru and Mihail Murzac at the Culture Ministry; Pavel Chiru, Tudor Dabija, Ion Nani, Alexandru Ursu and Anatol Cosciug at the Defence Ministry; Victor Catan, Victor Gusleacov, Mihail (Mmlig) and Vladimir Malojen at the Ministry of Interior; Tudor Botnaru and Nicolae Osmochescu at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Nicolae Panuli and Alexandru Bubuelar at the Ministry of Utilities and Housing; Valerian Verstiuc was entitled prime vice minister of state and Gherasim Lupoi vice minister of state. The vice ministers of the ministries of Justice, Security and Transport were not yet appointed.

Sudanese Ambassador Presents Credentials

AU2904084094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2018 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/4/1994—The Sudan ambassador to Moldova, Faruq Mustafa 'Ali, with permanent residence in Bucharest presented his credentials to President Mircea Snegur, states the presidential press service communique. The Sudan diplomat stated during the meeting that the people he represents respect the Moldovan people's choice expressed on February 27th. He called this "a choice to erect a democratic, independent and sovereign state." Snegur pointed out that Moldova has overcome a series of difficulties inherent in the transition to a market economy, mentioning the stability of the national currency and reduction of inflation. According to Snegur, Moldova's foreign policy will be founded on certain laws that will be examined and adopted in the near future. He said that "the present Parliament that has a majority faction displays constructivity in its activity. It is very likely to eliminate the conflicts in Eastern and Southern Moldova," said Snegur. Both Snegur and Faruq Mustafa 'Ali pointed out that the economic relations between the two states can be developed, particularly in agriculture.

Kazakhstan

President Praises Border Accord With China

LD2804151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] A border demarcation agreement between Kazakhstan and China crowns their bilateral ties, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev declared at farewell ceremony for the Chinese Premier Li Peng in Alma Ata [Almaty] Thursday [28 April].

"Not a single former USSR state, including Russia, has legally demarcated frontiers with China," Nazarbayev stressed.

In his opinion, the bilateral accords on transport give Kazakhstan access to all Chinese provinces and to Central Asia. He spoke highly of his talks with Li Peng on global issues, on the situation in CIS, and on Kazakh-Chinese relations.

He called fruitful the exchange of reform-making experience, which has, as he put it, an Asian flavor. Nazarbayev was pleased with Li Peng's support of his initiatives to build up trust and set up a common market in Asia.

All Nuclear Weaponry in Kazakhstan Belongs to Russia

LD2804185494 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Some very interesting facts were made public today in Moscow's Artillery and Missile Forces Academy. A film crew from the Segodnya program were the only journalists present.

[Correspondent Ivliyev] The nuclear strategic missiles based in Kazakhstan belong to Russia—this is the sensational news reported today by the Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, commander in chief of strategic missile forces, at a briefing for foreign military attaches, which took place in the Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy.

[Begin Sergeyev recording] A month ago, on 28 March, an agreement was reached during the Russian-Kazakhstan talks on giving Russian status to the formations and units of strategic missile forces stationed temporarily on Kazakhstan territory. A timescale was also agreed for the withdrawal of nuclear warheads to Russian territory. [end recording]

[Ivliyev] The agreement reached means that the personnel of the missile forces receive Russian citizenship. After the stage by stage withdrawal of missile force units from Kazakhstan is completed, the launch shafts will be dismantled, apparently by Russian specialists. Thus, all three CIS states—Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan—on whose territory nuclear weaponry remained after the collapse of the USSR, now have a treaty with Russia on its removal. In a few years, if these countries fulfill their obligations, Igor Sergeyev stressed, they will become non-nuclear states.

Aleksey Ivliyev, Andrey Melikhov, NTV, from the Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy.

Defense Minister Advocates CIS Military Cooperation

LD2904064494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0538 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty] 29 April TASS—"We shall march together. There is no other alternative," said Kazakh Defence Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov here on Friday, commenting on the treaty on military cooperation and some other agreements on military affairs, which were recently signed by the Russian and Kazakh presidents.

He made this statement, speaking before servicemen of a guards garrison and the Alma-Ata Higher Army School.

Reporting this event in its latest issue, the Kazakhstan SARBAZY (KAZAKH SERVICEMAN) newspaper quotes the words by the defence minister on the future of the armed forces of his republic and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"There was the Soviet Union. There is the Commonwealth of Independent States now," he said, adding that not a single state of the former union can exist independently. "Therefore," the minister stressed, "our president has repeatedly advocated political consolidation and economic integration."

Missiles Becoming Instruments of 'Political Blackmail'

PM2904085394 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[From the "Itogi" newscast: Video report from Kazakhstan by Aleksandr Gerasimov]

[Text] [Gerasimov] "Zone of consequences of the politics of the absurd"—this is probably the most apt description of the stationing locations of Strategic Missile Forces units in Kazakhstan. This is the fourth year since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the leaders of the nuclear republics have still not reached agreement on the division of nuclear weapons. These weapons, used as a deterrent until recently, are being turned into an instrument of political blackmail. Those who stand to lose from this are our own security, and the thousands of servicemen serving in the missile forces.

Formally, anything located on Kazakhstani territory belongs to Kazakhstan. At the same time, Alma-Ata [Almaty] has acceded to the offensive arms reduction treaty and does not regard itself as the owner of nuclear missiles. However, as a result of the cooling of relations between Kazakhstan and Russia, which followed the rejection of Nazarbayev's concept of the ruble zone, nobody is currently able to clearly define the nuclear weapons' status.

The nuclear weapons concerned are 104 of the world's most powerful strategic missiles—the SS-18—deployed in two divisions on the territory of Kazakhstan. The prevailing view is that these are Russian divisions. However, unlike in other armies, no state flag is flying above the headquarters. Admittedly, the main orders and the wages come from Moscow. Both the officers who have sworn allegiance to Russia, and the men who have taken the Kazakhstani oath and whose knowledge of Russian is poor, but who serve under Russian service regulations, are being paid in Russian rubles.

[Unidentified Russian officer addressing servicemen] No. 12 Platoon don gas masks!

[Gerasimov] At the same time, Alma-Ata is also issuing menacing orders. Their implementation has resulted in the accumulation at nuclear bases of an impermissibly large number of warheads which have come to the end of their guaranteed service life.

[Akhmet Khashchegulgov, missile division commander] The accumulation of nuclear warheads in the missile division is in excess of the set norms. This is primarily the result of a decision by the leadership of the Republic of Kazakhstan banning the removal of nuclear warheads, missiles, missile fuel components, and other types of hardware from the territory of Kazakhstan.

[Gerasimov] According to our information from the Russian Government, the explanation for this stance adopted by Alma-Ata is President Nazarbayev's intention during his upcoming visit to Moscow to demand compensation for the highly enriched uranium contained in nuclear charges. In addition, strategic missiles offer a good bargaining chip in the political horse-trading between the two states whose relations are far from straightforward.

Officers here take the view that nuclear safety can be guaranteed only if their divisions are given the status of Russian military bases. For some reason, they believe here that this will be resolved during the upcoming meeting between Yeltsin and Nazarbayev.

Perhaps when this meeting has taken place, the local Kazakhstani authorities will stop cutting off the electricity and water supply to the military garrisons. In that case officers' children will no longer have to freeze in schools and kindergartens, and the officers on duty will no longer have to struggle to maintain the survivability of the nuclear missiles. Commanders will be able to find the money needed to repair heat supply networks, and the pipes for this work will no longer have to be flown in from Moscow.

To Senior Lieutenant Mikhail Kryukov and Major Vasiliy Salashnov, who are on alert duty deep down under ground, empty shelves in the garrison's stores are nothing new. Just like their comrades, they are constantly ready to implement orders. Nonetheless, most of the officers are dreaming about returning to Russia where conditions of service are more comfortable. Many of them remain in Kazakhstan only because of speedier promotion and because 12 months of service counts for 18 months here.

Meanwhile, certain circumstances seem to indicate that Kazakhstan's leadership is not really seeking to improve relations with Russia. So, for example, a strategic installation—a Kazakhstani air defense unit located near the missile division at Derzhavinsk—is completely snowed under. When the Kazakhstani air defense troops were still Soviet troops they protected the nuclear missiles from air attacks. Now the station is deserted.

A Kazakhstani-U.S. joint venture for extracting high-grade metals from missile silos, which are being taken out of service, is being set up in Alma-Ata. It appears that the Kazakhstanis trust Moscow less and less. The Russian authorities, in turn, are taking no steps toward a rapprochement with Kazakhstan.

Tajikistan

Parliament Session Confirms New Officials

LD2804155594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Today, a scheduled session of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan was held under the chairmanship of Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan. An organizational question was examined. The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan confirmed Bozqul Dodkhudoyeva, who, until now, worked as minister for education, as deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers. Ibrahim Usmonov was appointed chairman of the State Committee for TV and Radio, and Ismail Davlatov as [words indistinct]. At this sitting of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet the report of Kayum Kavmuddinov, chairman of the National Bank was also heard. [passage omitted]

Bank Chairman on Remaining in Ruble Zone

LD2804152894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Republic of Tajikistan continues to have the goal of remaining in the ruble zone, according to Kayum (?Kavmuddinov), chairman of the National Bank of the Republic, during a TV interview. He said that the rumors [words indistinct] the reason behind these rumors was the late arrival of the cash. It is true that many plants and enterprises have not paid their workers for three months. These kinds of difficulties also prevail in the Russian Federation. However, the government has adopted four special decrees to overcome this difficulty. According to the government decrees, the [words indistinct] Unfortunately, because many of the personnel are narrow-minded, these laws and decrees are not being implemented, and the people are suffering hardships because of the absence of food products. These difficulties are, of course, temporary. When the government decrees are implemented, these difficulties will be overcome. [passage omitted]

Deputy Chief of Militia Department, Family Shot Dead

LD2804144694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1107 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] A source close to law enforcement bodies reported to INTERFAX that in the night of 28 April deputy chief of the Tajikabad regional militia department Idibek Salomonov together with his wife and two children was shot dead from a sub-machine gun in his house (Tajikabad is located in the Garm group of Tajikistan's regions in the Republic's north-east).

According to the source, the law enforcement bodies do not know anything about the motives of the murder. They are examining several versions, the results will be reported after the conclusion of the investigation.

Turkmenistan

Mitterrand, Niyazov Discuss Cooperation

LD2804163994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] 28 April TASS—Continuing his state visit to Turkmenistan, French President Francois Mitterrand said today that possessing huge oil and gas deposits, Turkmnistan can maintain a strong position during talks with French industrialists.

The topic concerning prospects of French-Turkmen business cooperation in different spheres was raised during talks between Francois Mitterrand and Turkmen leader Saparmurad Niyazov, as well as at meetings of economists from both countries.

A large group of French industrialists, including representatives from such internationally established firms and banks as "Gas de France," "Thomson," and "Credit Commercial de France" are also accompanying the French head of state. They are not making a secret of their interest in joining large top priority economic projects, which are being worked out by the Turkmen Government, in their possibly early stage.

In turn, Turkmenistan, which strives to join world leaders on the international oil and gas market, sees in enhancing cooperation with French enterprises an opportunity to modernize the technical basis of this leading branch of its national economy, and expedite the realization of the multi-billion gas pipeline laying project which will supply Turkmen gas to Europe.

Such French industrial giants as "Elf Aquitaine," "Bouygues," and "Thomson" have already stuck firm roots in Turkmenistan. Besides this, great hopes are being laid on French assistance in the creation and development of modern infrastructure for transport, modern communications and banking services.

Judging by all accounts, these hopes have a good base. France, according to Francois Mitterrand, is already prepared to earmark over 220 million francs as credits for these purposes. A number of economic agreements, which, according to Saparmurad Niyazov, must "provide a new impulse to the Turkmen-French development," are planned to be signed at the end of the talks today.

French Official Comments on Bosnian Settlement

LD2904021294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 28 Apr—All influential forces concerned about the Bosnian crisis—the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations—should work together to propose a general plan for a peaceful settlement to the conflicting sides, Alain Lamassoure, the French minister delegate for European affairs, said here today. Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent on the prospects for a Bosnian settlement, he expressed satisfaction with the fact that a kind of contact group has already been set up at the level of experts. "France is in favor of convening a meeting of representatives of the European Union, Russia, and the United States with the participation of the United Nations." Such a course should enable progress to be made in the search for ways to a peaceful settlement in Bosnia, he believes.

Some aspects of the Bosnian crisis were touched upon at talks between official delegations and expert groups from France and Turkmenistan within the framework of Francois Mitterrand's working visit to Ashkhabad, which ended today. The French side set out its approach to the Bosnia problem and expressed regret in connection with the fact that Foreign Minister Alain Juppe had not come to Turkmenistan. He was unable to leave Europe because French diplomacy is currently undertaking active efforts in the Bosnian sphere.

French President Ends Visit; Results Reviewed

LD2904084194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Text] Ashkhabad 29 April TASS—The central event of the French President Francois Mitterand's visit to Turkmenistan was a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries signed on Thursday evening, the treaty laid the foundation to further development of Russo-Turkmen contacts.

Besides, intergovernment agreements on cooperation in mutual protection of investments and cultural exchange were signed between foreign ministries of the two countries. A document on preventing double taxation was coordinated by the two sides as well.

During the talks the sides discussed a wide range of problems, paying particular attention to the situation in the Central Asian region and primarily, in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Turkmen officials have reiterated their position of non-interference into regional conflicts. They believe that the Afghan and the Tajik people can decide their fates themselves. The Turkmen side believes that Tajikistan needs national accord and consolidation. Any attempt to impose any variant from the outside might worsen the situation, said Boris Shikhmuradov, vice-premier of the Turkmen government in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

"We do not join coalition forces for the maintenance of peace in Tajikistan. We proceed from the assumption that there is no external enemy there," Shikhmuradov said. "Present clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border is not the cause, but rather the consequence of internal instability in Tajikistan," the Turkmen vice-premier said, adding that the Tajik point of view was brought to the notice of the French side.

France expressed satisfaction over the fact that despite a difficult situation in the vicinity of its borders Turkmenistan managed to preserve a certain balance of interests, a balance of forces. France looks upon stable Turkmenistan as a peace-keeping factor in the region.

For its part, Turkmenistan regards the French president's visit as a sign that the country is prepared to make its contribution to regional peace-keeping activities.

During the talks the sides discussed joint economic projects in spheres of priority importance for Tajikistan, including the development and transportation of oil and gas. Turkmenistan believes that having won the financial and technological support of French companies, it will soon turn into one of the leaders of the world energy exports.

The completion of the central Asian tour made by the French president heralds doubtless success of the Uzbek and French diplomacy. It was announced in Ashgabat that France would soon open its permanent diplomatic mission there which was persistently requested by the Turkmen leader.

Niyazov Answers Question on Agricultural Reform

PM2904092794 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Dialogue Which Helps Friendship"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of leaders of the leading Russian mass media and Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov took place in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] recently after the former had come to the republic at his invitation. Such meetings with leaders of CIS countries have already become a good tradition.

A central place in the program for the Moscow guests' stay on Turkmen soil was taken up by a "roundtable" talk with the head of state. [passage omitted]

The SELSKAYA ZHIZN representative was interested primarily in the agrarian reform which is being conducted in Turkmenistan.

"Our policy, known as 'the New Countryside,'" the president noted, "is of a balanced and gradual nature as regards changes in the agricultural sector. It proposes a diversity of forms of ownership and economic management of the land. Strong, flourishing collective and state farms will undoubtedly be retained. Unprofitable farms and farms operating in the red will be transformed into peasant and private farms and various associations of landowners. Some 150,000 hectares of land have been distributed for private ownership in the country. Every family has the right to 50 hectares. State support is being rendered to the development of the agro-industrial complex."

The task of overcoming grain dependence on the foreign market is being resolved as a priority. The grain purchased from CIS countries is costing Turkmenistan very dear. That is why the aim of achieving self-sufficiency with regard to grain has been set. Areas sown to wheat are being expanded and this year 1 million tonnes of grain will be obtained. As of 1997, the Republic intends to switch to the population's free provision with bread. According to calculations, 164 kg of flour is needed per inhabitant.

The talk, which lasted over two hours, was of a relaxed and congenial nature.

Armenia

President Receives CSCE's Mathias Mosberg

NC2804204494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received today Mathias Mosberg, deputy chairman of CSCE Minsk Group and Swedish diplomat, who is now in Armenia. The situation in the Karabakh conflict zone was discussed during the meeting.

Karabakh Officials Claim Cease-Fire Not Observed

LD2904085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0758 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 29 TASS—A ceasefire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict is not observed, ITAR-TASS learnt here on Friday from Manvel Sarkisyan, adviser of the Nagorno-Karabakh foreign minister.

He noted that the Karabakh side agreed on Thursday [28 April] to cease fire during the last night, provided the mediator—the Russian Federation—receives a similar reply from the opposing side—Azerbaijan.

In the meantime, there was no confirmation of such a reply, Sarkisyan said. Besides, the diplomat stressed, the Azeri side massed combat materiel and weapons near the north-eastern border of Nagorno-Karabakh and was regularly shelling the Mardakertskiy district from artillery during the last night and this morning.

Despite the cloudy weather, the situation is very tense at that section of the front, noted the adviser representing his ministry in Armenia.

Border Villages Fired on From Azerbaijan

LD2904103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0831 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—From 1700 on Thursday until late at night, Azerbaijani units periodically shelled the Armenian border villages of Vagan in Krasnoselskiy rayon, Chinari in Taushskiy rayon, and Sevkar and Berkaber in Idzhevanskiy rayon using all types of weapons. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from the Armenian defense ministry's press center.

According to the same source, at the same time, on Thursday evening, the border village of Shagat in Sisianskiy rayon in the southeast of the republic came under howitzer and automatic fire from the territory of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

In all cases, the Armenian side did not return fire and there were no casualties, the Armenian Ministry of Defense stressed.

Karabakh's Kocharyan Interviewed on Settlement

NC2504130194 Yerevan SNARK in English 0954 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] "AZATAMART" weekly published an interview with the Chairman of the State Committee on defence of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh Robert Kocharyan.

In Karabakh leader's opinion, one of the obstacles hindering the settlement of the conflict is the existence of two parallel initiatives - CSCE's and Russia's - which gives the sides an opportunity to maneuver. Kocharyan also noted that before December 1993 there had been contacts with Azerbaijan on the highest level. However, after the beginning of the latest Azerbaijani offensive, the official Baku broke up those contacts.

During that two-month large-scale offensive the mediators, in Kocharyan's words, made no efforts to influence the attacking side. Instead, they patiently waited for the results of military actions.

Touching upon Turkey's and England's position, the Karabakh leader noted, "The attitude of those countries towards Karabakh was obvious since the very first days of the conflict. As to the oil agreements with Azerbaijan, they will only prolong confrontation". When asked what kind of future he sees for Karabakh, Kocharyan answered, "Autonomy with the widest range of rights within a united Armenian state".

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Cease-Fire Planned for 28-29 Apr

LD2804142994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh is prepared for a cease fire from 00:01 hours of April 29, 1994, says a letter sent on April 28 by Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkady Gukasyan and the commander of the Karabakh Army, Samvel Babayan, to Russian Defense and Foreign Ministers, Pavel Grachev and Andrey Kozyrev, as well as to Russian presidential envoy, Vladimir Kazimirov.

Thus, Nagorno-Karabakh accepted the proposal put forward on April 26 by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on the cease-fire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict. The proposal was backed by Azerbaijan on the same day. The Minister proposed to declare a truce from 00:00 hours of April 28. However, Stepanakert was unable to give an official answer before Thursday.

The letter says that Nagorno Karabakh is prepared to observe a cease fire based on the protocol signed following the results of the meeting in Moscow on February

18 by defense ministers of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Pavel Grachev, Sarzh Sargsyan and Mamadrafi Mammadov. The document provides for a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh, the withdrawal of the conflicting sides and talks on the Karabakh status.

The letter by the Karabakh leaders says that because of the absence of observers, the mutual distrust of the conflicting sides, and in an attempt to exclude possible attempts to use a temporary lull to prepare for another large-scale offensive, and to help make the peace process irreversible, the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh believe it necessary to make use of the mechanism of the above protocol.

The implementation of the entire complex of military-technical measures, says the document, may guarantee a lasting cease-fire and create favorable conditions for solving political problems.

The letter says that leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh are prepared to order a cease-fire after the mediator (Russia) confirms the reception of an identical document from the conflicting side.

Interfax was informed about the letter of the Karabakh leadership by an aide to the Armenian president, Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

President Aliyev Speaks After Receiving CSCE Delegation

NC2904141994 Baku TURAN in English 1012 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 28) TURAN—"We welcome the stepped-up activity of the CSCE Minsk Group and all the efforts you have made in the past. We would like to see your work succeed", said President Aliyev during his meeting with the CSCE Minsk Group delegation headed by Mathias Mosberg.

According to Geydar Aliyev, Baku is striving for cease-fire and is seeking ways to establish peace in the region and it is in connection with this that the Chairman of the Milli Majlis, Rasul Guliyev, is actively negotiating with Moscow.

"After the meeting with Rasul Guliyev, Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, said that he will take measures to cease hostilities on April 28 at midnight, but Armenia continues to attack", said President Aliyev.

Azeri President mentioned that the peacemaking mission of the CSCE Minsk Group will lead to no effect without a cease-fire. The leader of the delegation, Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Group, Mathias Mosberg, agreed with this point of view.

"A cease-fire is the key element to the settlement of this problem. The aim of our visit to the region is to achieve a truce and we will make every effort to bring that about", stressed Mosberg.

Today, the delegation is scheduled to visit the war zone and then will return to Baku. After that the delegation again will visit Khankendi [Stepanakert] and Yerevan.

CSCE Delegation Comes Under Armenian Fire

LD2804195794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1928 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevindzh Abdulayev]

[Text] Baku, 28 Apr—This evening (at about 1800 hours local time) a delegation of the CSCE Minsk group on Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] was fired upon by Armenian armed formations at Terter, in the center of Terterskiy Rayon in the southwest of Azerbaijan.

After arriving in Azerbaijan two days ago, the delegation went this afternoon to this frontline rayon to acquaint itself with the situation on the spot and to study the possibility of deploying CSCE observers there.

According to a confidential source, two missiles from a Grad launcher fell close to the building housing the local administration at the time when the CSCE representatives were there. According to preliminary information, there are no casualties.

Shelling Continues, Large Scale Fighting Over

LD2804123394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In Karabakh, despite Russian Defense Minister Grachev's proposal, backed by Azerbaijan, to start a cease fire as of 00:00, April 28, the two sides have continued to shell each other's positions. However, major battles, as both Stepanakert and Baku claims, have come to a halt, which is explained by rain and fog in Karabakh .

As INTERFAX has learned from the Karabakh army's press service, Azerbaijani troops after midnight struck Karabakh positions at Talish, a community in the north of the Mardakert region. Casualty figures are as yet unavailable.

Armenian units, in turn, according to Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, fired rockets into Terter and nearby villages, bordering with Karabakh. Villages in the Tauz region of Azerbaijan were also shelled from Armenia.

The spokesman claimed that despite the Armenians provocative actions, the Azerbaijanis did not retaliate.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Azerbaijani President Gaydar Aliyev has dismissed as unfounded Stepanakert's demand that Aliyev address a formal truce offer to the Karabakh authorities. The Karabakh leadership has declared that only after such a request, can it respond to Grachev's proposal to cease fire.

As a senior official has told INTERFAX, "there can be no more formal statements other than those made by

Azerbaijan's head of state two days ago and the statement made by the Russian defense minister."

In his words, "If the opposite side sincerely desires peace, such a statement by an Azerbaijani leader, reaffirmed by a top Russian mediator in the peace process would be taken as an overture of peace."

He believes that by turning down the offer to cease fire, Armenia is rejecting yet another Russian peace initiative.

National Assembly Attacks Russian Karabakh Peace Plan

PM2704103594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 2

[Svetlana Turyalay report: "The Unexpected—Next. It Turns Out That Moscow's Services Are Not Needed in Azerbaijan at the Moment"]

[Text] Baku—Deputies were plunged into shock by Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov's speech at the National Assembly on the Russian plan for settling the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The draft peace agreement contains at least 18 articles which are unacceptable to Azerbaijan. First, it is proposed that Baku completely renounce the right to monitor the military potential of the former autonomous republic and recognize the existence of the "armed forces of Nagorno-Karabakh." It is proposed to give Azerbaijan's Lechinskiy Rayon the status of a "corridor" under the full control of the Armenian side, that is, to enshrine de jure what has already existed de facto for two years now. According to the plan the city of Shusha—the historical and cultural center of Nagorno-Karabakh—remains under Armenian control. The Armenian forces are to vacate the remaining occupied territories but without monitoring by international observers.

According to the plan which has been proposed, Azerbaijan is to lift the blockade on all communication routes leading into Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh even while the negotiation process is going on. But Russia is proposing that the main question—on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, the cause of the six years of bloody war between Armenia and Azerbaijan—be resolved this way: When the peace agreement is concluded so-called international guarantees of the special ownership of this region will be given, as happened in the case of Cyprus, Nakhichevan, and the state of Kashmir.

The Azerbaijan Foreign Minister called the present settlement plan a plan designed to preserve the conflict because if the military potential of Nagorno-Karabakh is maintained there is no guarantee that hostilities will not resume. National Assembly deputies were far harsher in their comments: This is the capitulation of Azerbaijan. In this regard opposition deputies and those deputies loyal to the authorities achieved a rare unanimity: The Russian plan is not even worthy of discussion and amendment. They instructed Gasan Gasanov to prepare an alternative draft, which is to be presented to Russia and Armenia.

Meanwhile, anti-Russian feelings have increased sharply in Azerbaijan. Various parties have made a succession of statements to the effect that they will take up arms against the Russian Army if the latter is brought into Azerbaijan even in the capacity of peacemakers. And the Islamic Party has flatly stated that it will declare a jihad (holy war) against the Russian authorities.

Gazanov Comments on New U.S. Ambassador

944K1123C Baku AZERBAYDHJAN in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Fazil Aleskeroglu: "Unity of Outlook and Positions Needed"]

[Text] The meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs Hasan Hasanov with the new U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mr. Richard Dale Kozlaric, lasted more than two hours. Unfortunately, to journalists' questions the ambassador gave only one reply—that all aspects of Azerbaijani-American relations have been discussed meticulously and in detail and a mutual understanding has been reached that...in order to achieve complete clarity, many additional meetings will be needed, which will indeed be held. He added that he would refrain from answering other questions until he presents his credentials to the head of the republic.

So it was the minister who ended up answering many questions. First and foremost, he appraised highly the fact of appointment of Mr. Kozlarich as the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan. The head of the foreign policy department emphasized that this appointment is a very positive fact and undoubtedly will facilitate rapprochement between our countries.

"I have known Mr. Kozlarich since 1992. I have a good impression of him. The ambassador has had a very long and serious diplomatic career. At the time he was dealing with all issues associated with the republics of the former Union. The positive impression I developed then was reaffirmed during our current meeting. The main point is that he is a man with a long service in diplomacy, well informed on the subject of Armenian aggression. All of this is evidence that the U.S. State Department, by appointing him the ambassador to Azerbaijan, counts on positive changes in the resolution of many issues. They sent here a person who is a man of goodwill, is sincere, and has a good grasp of the situation. Much will also depend on us, however. Because as a rule an ambassador interacts with everyone: the population, the government, and journalists.

Our republic, which is engaged in a war against Armenian aggressors, desperately needs unity; unity of outlook and position of both the government and the opposition. This is the only way we can get out of the crisis situation in which we currently find ourselves.

The minister also was asked how he feels about the proposal of some U.S. senators and congressmen to invite Ter-Petrosyan, as the most democratic of the presidents of the countries of the former Union, to America. Hasan Hasanov characterized this proposal as primarily another action of the Armenian lobby, and emphasized that it is seriously erroneous.

In the minister's opinion, the head of a republic that conducts an aggressive, bloody war that violates all human rights on the occupied territory, conducts regular ethnic cleansing, and violates all international norms and universal moral norms, cannot be considered a democrat. Especially considering that he also is de facto commander-in-chief of the Armenian armed forces.

Foreign Companies To Participate in Developing Caspian Oil

NC2904143594 Baku TURAN in English 1012 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 28) TURAN—Leadership of SOCAR [National Petroleum Corporation of Azerbaijan] has been actively negotiating with the Turkish company BMB ASh [joint stock company] and the American "BMB United Group, Inc." over the agreement on "production sharing". The agreement stipulates that these companies will participate in the development of the Western Caspian oil-fields.

A representative of SOCAR said that companies will conduct geological and research on several oil fields of that region as well as an increase in oil output of two oil fields already developed by SOCAR.

SOCAR has two agreements concerning creation of joint ventures to develop offshore oil fields. One of them has been concluded with the Turkish company "Atilla Dogan". This joint venture is created under "Neftchala" oil-extracting department. The second one is engaged in the development of the Kelmaddin oil field, (150 kilometres south of Baku, on the Apsheron Peninsula) which is created under "Shirvanneft" oil-extracting department.

Drop in Manat's ROE Prompts 'Explosion of Prices'

PM2904125994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 3

[Arif Useynov report: "Azerbaijan: Panic on the Black Market"]

[Text] Baku—It would appear that the situation that had been long predicted has become a reality: The U.S. dollar has shot up to 1,000 manats on the black market. Thus the population is 20 percent poorer, since the day before the same dollar could be bought for 800 manats. The same has happened with the exchange rate of the Russian ruble—on the black market it is expressed in terms of the dollar rate and has reached 1 manat to 2 rubles. The manat is clearly dropping away.

Correspondingly, prices of basic necessities also shot up, getting beyond the reach of the majority of the population. The opposition press believes that what is happening on the currency market is the consequence of serious economic upheavals. In particular, the opinion is being expressed that the financial magnates who manipulate black market transactions are ready to blow the situation in the republic apart from within. It is not yet clear according to what scenario events will develop. The population has been agitated by the explosion of prices on the market—a minimum salary today will only buy 1.5 kg of beef.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Decree on Care for Withdrawn Troops

LD2804102694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Decree of the head of the Georgian state: "On Resolving the Issues Raised 22d April 1994, at the Republican Session of Local Bodies of Management, Heads of Law-Enforcement Bodies, Ministries, and Departments of the Republic of Georgia."

With the aim of resolving the issues raised 22d April 1994, at the republican session of local bodies of management, heads of law-enforcement bodies, ministries, and departments of the Republic of Georgia, in connection with the withdrawal of the Interior Ministry's personnel units temporarily deployed in west Georgian regions, the Cabinet of Ministers is to discuss the suggestions on increasing the personnel at city and rayon police directorates and supplying the interior troops deployed in west Georgia with food.

The State Commission for Combatting Drug Addiction is to systematically monitor the process of implementing the 21 April 1994 decree by the head of the Georgian state on immediate measures for stepping up the fight against the narcotics business and drug addiction.

The Security Service, the Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry, and the Justice Ministry of the Republic of Georgia are to work out and present to the head of state plans for measures to step up the fight against corruption in the country.

The Security Service of the Republic of Georgia, together with the Interior Ministry and the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Georgia, are to take concrete measures for eradicating terrorism in the country and to report by 15 May on the procedure of investigations into terrorist acts which occurred earlier.

The Justice Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Security Service, and the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Georgia are to study and present in one month's time information on the legality of the financial activities of political parties registered in Georgia.

Local bodies of management of the Republic of Georgia, heads of law-enforcement bodies, ministries, and departments are to secure jobs for those fighting for Georgia's territorial integrity and improve their living conditions.

The Interior Ministry and the Security Service of the Republic of Georgia, when carrying out operational measures, are to adhere strictly to laws in force, must not allow the humiliation of personality, and must secure citizens' human rights.

[signed] Eduard Shevardnadze, 27 April, 1994, Tbilisi.

New First Deputy Defense Minister Appointed

LD2804194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Recently appointed Georgian Defense Minister Varden Nadabaidze has issued a number of appointment orders, the Ministry's press center told Interfax.

Major General Paata Datuashvili was relieved of his duties as first deputy defense minister to be replaced by Major General Guram Nikolaishvili who had been chief of the Georgian Army's General Staff.

Major General Nadar Tatarashvili was appointed as the chief of the general staff. Until recently, he was in charge of the Georgian peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia.

Estonia

Defense Forces Chief Visits Brussels

WS2804115294 Tallinn ETA in English 0652 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From 28 April EESTI SENUMID, PEVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, p. 1; "News Bulletin" No. 81/94]

[Text] Estonia welcomes the "Partnership for Peace" programme, Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces General Aleksander Einseln told the NATO HQ in Brussels on Wednesday [27 April].

The official visit began on Tuesday with a reception held by Chief of Staff of SHAPE [Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe] General Peter H. Carstens in SHAPE HQ in Mons. Deputy Commander of the joint NATO forces Sir John Waters presented the higher officers of SHAPE to General Einseln. A discussion of the "Partnership for Peace" programme, cooperation of the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) with NATO members, the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and current state of the EDF followed.

General Einseln announced at yesterday's meeting of NATO military committee and member countries' military leaders that an Estonian liaison officer has already arrived in Brussels. He described the Baltic joint exercise in February and added that further exercises will be held in Lithuania and Estonia this year, so as to prepare the battalion by November 1995. The Baltic battalion will become a disciplined unit under UN command, Einseln assured the NATO commanders.

Says Peacekeepers Ready by Fall

WS2904101994 Tallinn ETA in English 0715 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From 29 April PREVALEHT, p.3; "News Bulletin" No. 82/94]

[Text] The peacekeeping company currently being formed in Estonia will be ready to participate in the international peacekeeping forces joint exercise in the Netherlands this autumn, General Aleksander Einseln told the NACC [North Atlantic Cooperation Council] session yesterday.

General Einseln has prepared a draft resolution on the forming of an independent peacekeeping infantry company and submitted it to the government. The Defence Ministry will have to prepare the budget and the listing of personnel for the company.

The Foreign Ministry announced that the definite plan for Estonia's participation in the "Partnership for Peace" NATO cooperation programme will be completed by mid-May. The military resources to be turned over under NATO control need to be elaborated still. The government will have to approve the budget of the programme after which the plan will be submitted to NATO HQ.

Partnership Participation Plan Ready in May

WS2804150894 Tallinn BNS in English 1303 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 28, BNS—The final version of the plan for Estonia's participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program is expected to be ready in the middle of May, officials at the Estonian Foreign Ministry said.

Estonia by now has prepared in most part the text of the document it is going to propose from its side. Still to be agreed upon are the issues pertaining to the military resources to be given to NATO's disposal by Estonia. Work is going on over these issues at the defense forces Central Staff in Tallinn.

After all necessary amendments have been made in the Estonian text of the plan, the government will get a draft budget of the expenses connected with Estonia's participation in the program. If the government approves the budget, Estonia will submit its program to the NATO leadership for approval.

The Foreign Ministry says Estonia will be ready to take part in the program in the second half of this year. Cooperation under the Partnership for Peace program will follow the 16+1 formula, i.e. 16 NATO members plus that particular non-member partner. But the program also provides for extensive bilateral cooperation between NATO members and the partner countries.

The cooperation project is being prepared in Estonia by a work group, led by the head of the Foreign Ministry's political department, Toivo Klaar.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry said Estonia has been working closely particularly with Denmark, but also with Germany and the United States while drawing up the program. Exchanging of information goes on steadily with Latvia and Lithuania, the ministry officials said.

Enn Tupp, the head of the defense policy department at the Estonian Defense Ministry, told reporters on Wednesday [27 April] that the country above all is interested in the possibilities that the partnership program offers in the field of military training. "This is one of our main aims while participating in the program," Tupp said.

Estonia in the documents pays much attention to the strengthening of its coast defense. The country expects from the NATO members not only assistance in the form of consulting, but also "certain material support," Tupp said.

Higher Import Tariffs in Russia 1 Jul

WS2804150994 Tallinn BNS in English 1303 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 28, BNS—Higher import tariffs in Russia for certain Estonian-made goods will be effective from July 1, 1994, the Estonian Foreign Ministry press office quoted an official statement by the Russian Embassy as saying.

Tariffs as valid before March 15 this year will remain in effect until June 30. This means that exporters in Estonia who have already paid the Russian tax under the higher rates can get back their money or leave it as pre-payment for next consignments, the ministry adds in its remarks.

The Russian Government in a ruling from March 14 imposed higher tariffs on some articles of imports from Estonia. The new tariffs for farm products, confectionery and bakery products, textiles, were established at two times the rate used for imports from other European countries.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets in an interview with the Interfax news agency earlier this month said Moscow is not going to revise the new tariffs in the near future.

Higher Tariffs Economically Motivated

WS2804185194 Tallinn BNS in English 1627 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, Apr 28, BNS—Russia was not guided by political motivation, but proceeded exclusively from economical reasoning when introducing the new import tariffs, to become effective from July 1, Russian Agriculture Minister Victor Khlystun told his Estonian counterpart at a meeting in Moscow.

Khlystun said Russia is trying to protect its domestic market against dumping and that the introduction of customs tariffs was a necessary precondition for Russia's membership in the GATT.

Russia's new higher tariffs will be effective as to Estonia because the Russian parliament has not ratified a trade agreement signed between the two countries. But the Baltics are not the only countries exports from which will be hit by the higher tariffs; the new regulations also affect Georgia, for instance, the Estonian minister quoted his Russian counterpart as saying.

Leetsar said the Russian minister had agreed to immediately start talks on reducing the import tariffs for products coming from the sector governed by the Agriculture Ministry. Talks could be started over raw products, such as meat, potatoes, cheese, etc. Leetsar said there was little interest toward Estonian-made butter in Russia, but added that Estonian cheese and pork continued to be much-wanted articles.

The talks of the Estonian minister with Russia's farm sector leaders, which focused on the new tariffs, also dealt with more general topics, such as financing of the farm sector, state subsidies, pricing. Discussed was the possibility to set up joint ventures and even possible joint participation in international corporations.

Russia proposed Estonia to take part as observer in the work of Russia's Federal Market Center. Leetsar in his comments in support of the idea said this would enable Estonia to be better informed about the developments on the Russian market. Estonia also wishes to participate in the creation of an international farm exchange in St. Petersburg, a town traditionally a major market for Estonian farm products.

Leetsar, in his further remarks on the visit, said a deep crisis in Russia's farm sector is continuing and that the country doesn't expect to get out of it even in the coming year. Debts of the farm sector are huge, and 14 percent of the collective and state-governed kolkhoz and sovkhoz enterprises have gone bankrupt.

The Estonian minister also invited his Russian counterpart to visit Estonia. Khlystun's visit is expected some time in the second half of May.

Prime Minister Chairs 2-Day Coalition Meeting

WS2904101594 Tallinn ETA in English 0715 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 82/94]

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar chaired the first session of the government coalition two-day meeting in Lohusalu. According to government spokesman Ain Saarna, the meeting discussed agriculture, social issues and the enactment of the law on aliens. Changes in the government were and will not be discussed, Saarna said.

Kurds Crossing Illegally From Russia

WS2804131894 Tallinn BNS in English 1013 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 28, BNS—Estonian border authorities have provided to Russia materials to prove that the group of Kurds which arrived in Estonia on April 6 had come from Russia. The Russian side didn't accept the proof, claiming it was impossible to cross the border illegally from their side, since they are guarding the border 24 hours a day.

Three students from Afghanistan, currently studying in Moscow, on Wednesday [27 April] applied for an Estonian visa at the country's embassy in the Russian capital. The students said their parents were among the group of Kurds who came to Estonia illegally.

Estonia refused to issue visas to the Afghan students, saying it still insists that Russia would take back the Kurds who crossed the border illegally.

Latvia

'No Obstacles' to Russian Army Agreement

LD2804173994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Today in Jurmala, groups of experts of the Latvian- Russian interstate talks completed the coordination of an additional protocol to the agreement on social guarantees for the discharged Russian military that was submitted by Latvia. With this, there are no obstacles now to the delegations signing the package of documents on the withdrawal of the Russian Army, Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation, believes.

Aivars Vovers, deputy head of the Latvian delegation, also admitted that there are no obstacles now for a meeting between the Latvian and Russian presidents, from the point of view of the readiness of the agreements. The protocol provides for several ways to tackle the issues related to emigration to Russia or other states by the Russian officers discharged in Latvia, if they wish to do so.

It is envisaged to tackle the issue of the amount of payment for rent of the Skrunda radar station at the presidents' meeting.

U.S. Group on Russian Officer Housing Program

WS2804184494 Tallinn BNS in English 1627 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 28, BNS—The United States has allotted 160 million dollars to build homes for Russian officers repatriating from the Baltic states and Eastern Europe, said representatives of the U.S. State Department and the U.S. International Development Agency [USAID].

The group toured Riga this week to acquaint Latvians with the implementation of two housing programs for Russian military.

The first experimental apartments will be ready next week in the Novgorod and Pskov regions of Russia, said George Deikun, a spokesman for the USAID. All 350 flats in this program will be completed in the near months, he noted.

To accommodate 450 officers, 100 vouchers will be issued to enable the officers to acquire apartments in Russia in 90 days. From the 450 apartments, 80 percent are designed for those withdrawing from the Baltic region.

The second project foresees to build 4,000 apartments and distribute 1,000 vouchers. The general contractor for the implementation of this project will be found until July.

Under a U.S.-Russian agreement, the construction is carried out by American or Russian privately-run firms, or U.S.-Russian joint ventures, said Deikun.

Unfortunately, Deikun said, the homes are and will be built in compliance with Russian and not with American standards. The apartments, however, will become private property of the officers.

The U.S. delegation also met Wednesday [27 April] with representatives of Russian Northwestern Army Group command to discuss the implementation of the projects.

The officers basically want to return to their native districts or places where it is easy to find jobs. USAID drafts the list of officers who need accommodation together with the Russian Interministerial Housing Committee, Russian local governments and army command.

U.S. Ambassador to Latvia Ints Silins reconfirmed the intention of the United States to donate 2 million dollars to help Latvia dismantle the new block of the Skrunda radar facility.

BNS asked Silins whether the United States will participate in the financing of the Russian military retirees' repatriation foundation, which will also deal with the rehabilitation of the Skrunda environment. Silins answered he lacked information about the goals of the foundation and, consequently, abstained from comments.

Experts Continue Russian Summit Date Coordination

WS2804134194 Tallinn BNS in English 1013 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, Apr 27, BNS—A group of Latvian experts, headed by Foreign Ministry State Secretary Maris Riekstins, met with Russian counterparts on Wednesday [27 April] to discuss the date of the anticipated visit of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis to Moscow.

The date of the presidential summit could be announced on Thursday, a spokesperson for the Latvian Embassy in Moscow told BNS.

The embassy official named April 30 as a potential date for the summit but he said that it was not for sure.

Currently, Latvian and Russian negotiators are coordinating a supplementary protocol to the agreement on social rights of Russian military retirees, said the spokesman. "There is a hope that the protocol will be approved as an annex to the agreement," he said.

The protocol, which Latvians submitted to the Russian delegation this week in Jurmala, Latvia, foresees an option for demobilized servicemen to repatriate and a chance for Russia to participate in the setup of a repatriation foundation.

During the trip of Ulmanis to Moscow, he and Russian President Boris Yeltsin are expected to sign the package of agreements on Russian troop withdrawal, including sections on Aug. 31 as withdrawal deadline; on temporary operation of radar facility at Skrunda in Latvia; on protection of withdrawing troops; and on social rights of retired servicemen.

Latvia wants to amend the section on war pensioners, while Russia insists on the signature of the whole package together.

Summit Negotiations Proceed

LD2804161994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The issue of the possibility for the Latvian and Russian presidents to meet will, to a great extent, be decided at the meeting of experts of the Latvian-Russian interstate talks in Jurmala, Aivars Vovers, the deputy head of the Latvian delegation, told reporters today during the talks between the experts. Vovers explained that during the experts' talks the main attention was paid to an additional protocol to the agreement on the discharged Russian military personnel initialled on 15 March, the draft of which Latvia submitted on Tuesday [26 April].

The draft protocol provides for the possibility of repatriation of the discharged Russian military personnel who wish to return to Russia, as well as setting up a repatriation fund. The Russian experts have agreed to the idea of such a fund. However, the standpoints of the two sides are controversial on many points of the additional protocol, Vovers said.

The Russian side has submitted a list of approximately 150 military who were discharged by 28 January 1992 but have not carried out all the corresponding formalities until now as a supplement to the above-mentioned agreement.

According to the initialled agreement, in the event of signing the list [as heard] these people will have the right to remain in Latvia, Vovers explained. He added that to tackle repatriation problems the Latvian side would need the list of all the discharged Russian military living in Latvia.

Sergey Zotov, the head of the Russian delegation, who today discussed these problems with Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, for his part expressed the view that the talks were very difficult because the Latvian side shows excessive stubbornness and does not wish to unilaterally give in on several issues.

Fatherland, Freedom Chairman on Citizenship Law

WS2904083794 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Maris Grinblats, leader of the Fatherland and Freedom faction in the Latvian Saeima, by V. Mikhaylov; place and date not given: "Are the Elders Leaning More to the Right?"—first paragraph is STRAZH BALTIKI introduction]

[Text] After Maris Grinblats was elected a deputy to the Saeima [parliament], his powers as chairman of the Latvian Congress of Citizens were suspended. However, the leader of the now parliamentary opposition has not been left without work, of course. Today, he is not only the leader of the radical right-wing Fatherland and Freedom faction, but also head of the "Union of 18 November." This party, as known, is a leading force on the path toward the unification of Latvia's nationalist forces. Thus, there is every reason to call this philosopher from Madona a leader of the entire national radical wing of the Latvian Republic. Excluding, of course, the Movement for National Independence of Latvia [LNNK]. By the way, our interview began with a question about the differences between the LNNK faction and Fatherland and Freedom. After all, it is beyond the comprehension of mere mortals.

[Grinblats] There are certain differences. For instance, there were two different draft laws on citizenship. The LNNK wanted to begin naturalization before the withdrawal of occupation troops, whereas we opposed such an approach. True, by now, after two months of mutual discussions, we have arrived at a single compromise draft.

[Mikhaylov] How is it so that the positions are similar, but the numbers of seats in the legislature are so different?

[Grinblats] The LNNK is more familiar to the people, while our union was created only a year ago, literally on the eve of legislative elections. Thus, the results of the elections were not surprising.

[Mikhaylov] You are in opposition to the governing coalition. Does this mean that all your ideas are being swept aside by "wayfarers" and "peasants?"

[Grinblats] No, some of our ideas regarding the restoration of laws adopted in the Latvian Republic in the 1920's and 1930's are being accepted by Saeima. These are the laws on state control and a referendum, both of which are being adopted according to our conception. With regard to laws on land reform and denationalization of housing, we have managed to make only certain alterations here. The psychology of the ruling coalition is as follows: The process has been activated, and no special changes are needed.

[Mikhaylov] You have your own draft law on foreigners and stateless people. The draft divides these people into four groups. What are they?

[Grinblats] In the first place, the question concerns people who are not allowed residence permits. These are people who entered Latvia illegally, even from the point of view of Soviet laws, and are not registered. They include criminal elements and servicemen from the Russian Army. The second group of people, who are allowed residence permits for one year, includes pensioned servicemen and their families. The third group includes the main bulk of civilians who have the right to reside in Latvia for five years. In addition, both the second and third categories can extend residence permits for one year and five years respectively, if they are not acting in any way against Latvia's independence. The fourth group, which has the right of permanent residence, includes all Latvians and Livonians who do not currently have Latvian citizenship; foreigners and their families, who came to Latvia before 1940 and have residence permits dating from that time; spouses of Latvian citizens who live in Latvia for a definite period of time; and, possibly, former citizens of Latvia and Estonia.

[Mikhaylov] What about the system of quotas?

[Grinblats] We think that such a system is necessary, regardless of what we might call it. Yet the extent of a quota should be determined not by the government, but by a legal norm. Within these quotas, naturalization can be applied only to Latvians who have yet not been granted Latvian citizenships for some other reason.

[Mikhaylov] How would you evaluate Latvia's participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program?

[Grinblats] It is a positive step. The West, as it is becoming clear by now, does not intend to interfere in our problems too much. They are not very interested in them. Latvia, in the end, is not oil-rich Kuwait. Thus, the "Partnership" is an option that could not be rejected. Though, I am more hopeful to strengthen the close ties in security matters with Lithuania and Estonia with the support of such countries as Denmark and Sweden. These countries are very concerned with the illegal transit of immigrants through Baltic states. It is a matter of vital interest for them whether our "sieve" has holes or not.

[Mikhaylov] One last question: If your version of the law on citizenship is not adopted and these 70,000 pensioned servicemen with their families stay in Latvia, what will you do? Will you accept the situation?

[Grinblats] We will seek another means to achieve our goal.

[Mikhaylov] Thank you for the interview.

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Signs Treaty in Washington

WS2804184694 Tallinn BNS in English 1627 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 28, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys on Tuesday [26 April] signed an agreement between Lithuania and the United States on trade relations and protection of intellectual property. The accord confers the most favored nation trade status to both countries.

In Washington, the Lithuanian minister met Nichol Burns, senior director of the National Security Council, and Peter Tarnoff, state under secretary for political affairs, the Voice of America [VOA] said.

In an interview with VOA, Gylys said the meetings concerned a number of issues, including cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, Lithuania's relations with Poland, Belarus and Russia. The minister said relations between Lithuania and the United States and possibilities to expand them were under discussion, as well.

Jonas Paslauskas, adviser to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, said special attention was paid to Lithuania's relations with its neighbors. Paslauskas said of possible development that could damage Lithuania's intersts were discussed. In his words, Gylys emphasized that Lithuania is very concerned about certain processes in the East.

According to the report, Tarnoff expressed satisfaction that relations between Lithuania and the United States are good and businesslike.

High-ranking U.S. officials also made specific proposals regarding U.S. assistance in the creation of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion, but no details were reported.

Polish President Favors Economic Roundtable

LD2804175394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1323 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Zenonas Miksys reports from today's news conference in the government palace:

[Miksys] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius received a large group of the IMF experts, who are visiting Lithuania, in the government palace today. [passage omitted] The traditional Thursday government news conference was participated by Adalbert Knobel, the head of the Baltic branch of the IMF European Department, and Peter Cornelius, the IMF permanent representative in Lithuania. [passage omitted]

Adalbert Knobel, the head of the Baltic branch of the IMF European Department, described a meeting of the IMF Board of Directors that was held in April, and which gave a very positive assessment to the reforms taking place in Lithuania and the efforts of the state leaders. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, speaking of the visit by Polish President Lech Walesa, described its importance in the further cooperation of the two neighboring states.

[Begin Slezevicius recording] I have spoken to him [Walesa] several times. We agreed that a dialogue at government level will become more active. [passage omitted] We agreed that special groups will be set up to coordinate special issues. [passage omitted] The possibility of organizing a round table on economic topics was discussed. The president had a very favorable attitude to this proposal. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Controversy Flares Over Treaty With Poland

WS2804145494 Tallinn BNS in English 1303 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 28, BNS - The Lithuanian-Polish agreement on friendship and cooperation that was signed in Vilnius April 26 caused controversial reaction among Lithuanian politicians, although they all agree that the signing is a positive step toward expanding relations between the two countries.

The parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday [27 April] postponed discussion of the treaty. The committee's chairman, Kazys Bobelis, told reporters that committee members decided to get acquainted with agreement's text in Polish.

Arvydas Bajoras, a member of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, said he sees no negative aspects in the accord. MP [member of parliament] Algirdas Kuncinas, vice chairman of the ruling LDLP faction in the parliament, said the agreement lacks a number of things, and shortcomings will come to light in the future.

Social democrat Nikolai Medvedev told the RESPUBLIKA newspaper that he is fully satisfied with the treaty because it guarantees Lithuania's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders.

Conservative Gediminas Vagnorius said he misses an evaluation of recent history (1920 occupation of Vilnius), which would eliminate possibilities for speculations.

Centrist Romualdas Ozolas, who sharply criticized the treaty while it was still in preparation, said the agreement means "a strategic defeat and a tactical victory." In his view, the parliament should adopt a statement on certain aspects that were left out along with the agreement's ratification.

Saulius Peceliunas, leader of the Democratic Party, said he will vote for the treaty's ratification if the parliament adopts a statement saying that a different interpretation of history is not a pretext for Polish social organizations to claim the property that they owned in the occupied Vilnius and its region.